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PAGE 24

VANCOUVER metro®

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

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p: Eric Berger
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BURE JOINS THE GREATS

Russian Rocket Pavel Bure takes part in a press conference at the Hockey Hall of Fame on Monday in Toronto. Bure, former Canuck Mats Sundin, Joe Sakic of Burnaby and Adam Oates were inducted into the hall during a ceremony. Story, page 37. BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

Man suspended from YMCA over gay slur and threats

Public outcry spurs Greater Vancouver organization to take further action after it originally gave the member another chance PAGE 3

Trudeau's hoping yes he can, too

The team behind the federal Liberal leadership hopeful seeks advice from Obama's staff PAGE 9

It's easy being green

Create an attractive and filling side dish with a tray of roasted shrimp and edamame. And don't forget the black pepper PAGE 31

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Crime

Surrey woman charged with killing her mother

A Surrey woman is facing a murder charge in the death of her mother.

The body of Panagiota Zerbinos, 43, was found in a basement suite of a Surrey home last Thursday. On Saturday, the victim's daughter, Gloria Zerbinos, 28, was arrested by Vancouver police.

Corp. Adam MacIntosh of the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team said while the squad is pleased to be announcing the arrest and murder charge only a few days into the investigation, members also recognize "this tragedy that has occurred with a family losing a wife and mother and her daughter being charged with her murder."

Police did not reveal the motive or method of the killing, but investigators said they do not believe the death is related to drug or gang activity.

Zerbinos remains in custody and will make a first court appearance on Tuesday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Earth-shaking news

Two quakes hit Gulf of Alaska

Parts of the Gulf of Alaska were rattled by a pair of earthquakes on Monday.

One tremor measured 6.4 and the other 6, but both were in remote areas far from major cities. The U.S. National Weather Service says no tsunami was expected from the jolts.

The quake that struck Haida Gwaii on the B.C. coast on Oct. 27 measured 7.7, but it did not produce a tsunami.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The YMCA of Greater Vancouver has apologized for the way it dealt with an incident at the Robert Lee YMCA on Burrard Street that involved a man making homophobic and threatening remarks to another member. EMILY JACKSON/METRO

YMCA member suspended for homophobic slur

Y apologizes for handling of incident.

Plans to work with queer community to improve policies

EMILY JACKSON
emily.jackson@metronews.ca

The YMCA suspended a man's gym membership and apologized for its initial reaction after the man made what it called "homophobic and threatening remarks" to another member in the change room last week.

The Y originally gave the man a second chance after he called longtime member Aaron Poirier a "f-g" and on two occasions threatened to punch him at the Robert Lee YMCA on Burrard Street.

Upset by the response and fearful for his safety, Poirier filed a criminal complaint with the Vancouver police and suspended his own membership.

After backlash from the community, the YMCA apologized, suspended the man's membership and announced plans to work with MLA Spencer Chandra Herbert and B.C.'s queer resource centre QMUNITY to "be a part of the solution to address discrimination and homophobia."

"The Y acknowledges that the initial way in which we handled this situation has caused anger, frustration and hurt for those involved and members of our community. We are sorry and wish we did better," Simon Adams, vice-president of membership at the YMCA of Greater Vancouver, said in a statement.

"The Y works hard every day to be a safe place for all," he said. "While this incident is regrettable, we value the diversity of our community and believe that by working together, we can build a stronger, more inclusive society."

Poirier is encouraged that the Y will work with the community and its leaders, but disappointed it took a public outcry to get results, he said on Monday.

"I've received many unsolicited emails of similar experiences. This, to me, seems systemic," he said.

A message that bullying will not be tolerated needs to come from the top of the organization and a written discrimination procedure must be put in place, Poirier said, adding he'll wait to see if changes are made before reinstating his membership.

"I love the Y," he said, adding that he teaches a weekly class there. "I'm sad that they chose the bully instead."

Sensitivity training

- A locker room is a particularly vulnerable place to be threatened with homophobic remarks, QMUNITY's executive director, Dara Parker, said on Monday.
- The YMCA has been "very receptive" to an offer from her organization to provide queer competency training, she said.
- Parker and the Y's vice-president will discuss the next steps this week.
- QMUNITY's tips include: Teaching staff how homophobic or transphobic language can be hurtful and threaten a person's sense of safety.

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Bid. Former Liberal branch president takes shot at federal leadership

With just days to go until the formal launch of the federal Liberal leadership race, a sixth candidate has laced up his trainers, ending speculation about his plans.

Victoria resident David Merner, who resigned recently as president of the B.C. branch of the federal Liberal party, has officially announced he will run for the party's top job.

Merner joins David Bertschi, Alex Burton, Deborah Coyne, Jonathan Mousley and Justin Trudeau.

Candidate registration opens on Wednesday, with the deadline for nominations set for Jan. 14.

The winner will be announced in Ottawa on April 14, 2013.

Federal Liberals have been led by interim boss Bob Rae since former leader Michael Ignatieff stepped down after the party placed behind the NDP in the May 2011 national election that restored the Conservative party to a majority government. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Slow-speed getaway. Victoria man facing charges in loader heist

A Victoria man didn't need a front-end loader to scoop up a heap of trouble, but he stole the big rig anyway, police say.

Victoria police say the man is facing several of charges following the Saturday night incident.

Police say the unidentified man braved frigid waters to swim across the Gorge waterway and break into a compound where the heavy equipment was being stored.

A security guard who spotted the man wading ashore had to leap out of the way as the man fired up the loader and trundled it out of the lot, crushing a parked motorcycle during the slow-speed getaway.

Police managed to intercept the vehicle within a few blocks.

But it was not until a police dog was brought in after the man leaped from the loader and fled on foot that a suspect was taken into custody.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Passengers buy tickets using change and a card at the Yaletown-Roundhouse SkyTrain Station on Monday. EMILY JACKSON/METRO

TransLink machines reject new $20 bills

Fix coming. Spokesman says organization had to wait until polymer bills were launched before upgrading the machines

EMILY JACKSON
emily.jackson@metronews.ca

TransLink's ticketing machines can't yet handle the new $20 bills, but the technical glitch won't excuse you from buying a ticket.

A few hundred ticket vending machines at SkyTrain stations across the city need a software upgrade before they can accept the new plastic $20 bills doled out by the Bank of Canada last week, TransLink spokesman Drew Snider said Monday.

It's not clear when the upgrade, which is part of the maintenance budget, will be complete, but until then people can pay with old bills, smaller bills, coins, debit cards or credit cards, Snider said.

"There's no way people shouldn't have another way of getting a valid proof of payment — and they do need the valid proof of payment if they're going to be in a fare-paid zone."

TransLink was prepared for the polymer bills, but had to wait until they were launched to upgrade the machines, Snider said.

It's a much easier fix than when the Mint released lighter loonies and toonies, he added.

In that case, TransLink didn't have the coins ahead of time and had to remove older machines to upgrade them at a shop.

First Nation vote

Stevens returned as Nisga'a head

Nisga'a voters have returned Mitchell Stevens to the president's chair.

Stevens became president in 2010, following the death of former Nisga'a leader Nelson Leeson.

Members cast ballots last Wednesday and the final count was completed Saturday night.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Construction worker

Terrace man wins $25M jackpot

A Terrace man will split a $50-million Lotto Max jackpot.

Bob Erb was one of two winners of the Nov. 2 draw.

The 60-year-old says he double-checked his ticket when it came up with so many zeros, and was stunned to see $25 million.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fraud charge

Man living with 'benefits' not guilty of welfare fraud: Court

A man accused of stealing $50,000 in welfare money may have been living as "buddies with benefits" with another man, but a B.C. judge has ruled there was no proof the two men were living in a common-law relationship.

The finding was key to provincial court Judge Darrell O'Byrne's decision to throw out a fraud charge against Gordon Street of Vanderhoof.

Street was charged over accusations he received too much social assistance money, with the Crown arguing he failed to disclose he was in a common-law relationship with another man.

Street collected $50,000 over a period of five years beginning in 2001.

In September 2001, Street said he was single and never married on his assistance review, although he claimed to be living with someone at least twice while making claims for financial help.

Street's lawyer argued the claim was accurate, because a gay man could not legally have been married to another man at the time.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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B.C. changes tsunami alert protocol

Visitors and Oahu residents watch the ocean water surge in and out of the Ala Wai Harbor carrying various debris during a tsunami in Honolulu following an earthquake off B.C.'s Haida Gwaii on Saturday, Oct. 27. EUGENE TANNER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Emergency response. Province looks to social media to improve alerts for media, response teams and citizens

The powerful earthquake that rocked British Columbia's coast two weeks ago has shaken up the way the provincial government issues its tsunami alerts.

Following the Oct. 27 magnitude-7.7 earthquake that rocked Haida Gwaii and B.C.'s northern coast, the provincial government came under fire for taking too long to notify people about a possible tsunami.

Some municipal politicians and first responders, such as police and fire officials, complained they had to wait as long as an hour to receive the warning.

The B.C. Ministry of Justice announced Monday that under its new system it will forward alerts it receives from the U.S.-based West Coast and Alaska Tsunami Warning Centre to all local authorities, first responders and the media.

After the emails are sent, the Crown agency will post information on Twitter and other social-media sites.

Information will also be available on Emergency Management BC's blog for people with smartphones, and the government is developing an interactive map of tsunami warning zones so people can determine if they are at risk.

"Frankly, I'd rather they (British Columbians) were inundated with information than sit waiting for something to arrive," said Shirley Bond, minister of justice and attorney general. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Infrastructure

Traffic causes $10B in lost productivity: FCM

The federal government is being asked to come up with a long-term plan to help pay to upgrade Canada's crumbling municipal services, including roads and sewers.

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities says the country is losing $10 billion in productivity to traffic congestion alone.

It also says one in four city wastewater treatment plants will need major improvements to meet new federal regulations.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Call for help

Police search for man who vanished near UBC campus

Police in Vancouver are asking for the public's help in finding a 31-year-old man who disappeared near the University of B.C. on the weekend.

The RCMP say they believe Patrick Rush is in need of medial assistance.

He was last seen about 8:30 Saturday night near UBC.

Rush is white, six feet tall, 200 pounds with a bald head and reddish beard.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

VANOC. Ice cream shop settles lawsuit over Olympics-related losses

A Vancouver ice cream shop owner has settled out of court with organizers of the 2010 Olympic Games in Vancouver.

Mario's Gelati filed a lawsuit against the Vancouver organizing committee, the city and the federal and provincial governments seeking more than $2.5 million for lost business due to construction of the Athletes Village near his business.

VANOC staff initially promised roadwork outside the shop would only take a few weeks but it dragged on for more than seven months.

The case was slated to go to court this month, but a settlement was reached in September.

Details of the settlement are guarded by a confidentiality agreement.

CKNW/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lost hiker. Man found after 911 call prompts search on Van. Island

The RCMP say a lost hiker who called 911 for help is OK after he triggered an extensive search.

A news release says the hiker, who had been camping with a group of friends, called for help Saturday morning from a remote spot in the Nanaimo area.

The 911 operator lost connection with the man because of a bad cellular signal, leaving police with just a name and a rough location.

The RCMP then contacted the man's camping companions, who hadn't even realized he was missing, and they told police he was an experienced hiker who was dressed appropriately for the weather.

More than five hours after the 911 call, the hiker found a logging road and flagged down a truck driver, who drove him to his waiting family.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Victoria. Area police investigate homicide that left one dead, one injured

Police in the Victoria area are investigating an apparent homicide that left one man dead and another injured.

Victoria police say officers responded to a 911 call Friday night from a house in Esquimalt, west of Victoria, where they came upon a "chaotic scene."

A news release says officers found a 57-year-old man who was unresponsive and suffering severe injuries.

The officers performed CPR until paramedics arrived, but the man, whose name hasn't been released, later died in hospital.

A second man was also injured and is expected to recover. Police arrested a 49-year-old Victoria man.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Coast-guard search

Boater rescued in Boundary Bay

A late-night boat trip across Boundary Bay, south of Vancouver, sparked an overnight search. A coast-guard hovercraft and a search-and-rescue helicopter from CFB Comox scoured the bay, between Tsawwassen and White Rock. The man was eventually spotted off Point Roberts more than four hours after his wife sounded the alarm at 9 p.m. Sunday night. The unnamed boater was OK.

CKNW/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Turning into Target

Zellers closes in PG

Monday was the last day of work for all staff at the Zellers department store in Prince George. It closed yesterday, and all employees are being laid off while the 35-year-old outlet is renovated and prepared for its debut next May as a Target store. Target picked up the leasing rights to more than 200 Zellers stores across Canada after signing a nearly $2-billion deal with the Hudson's Bay Company. PRINCE GEORGE CITIZEN/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

B.C. government hosts anti-bullying forum

A screengrab from a YouTube video that was posted by Amanda Todd a month before her death. YOUTUBE.COM/METRO FILE

Amanda Todd. The event was in response to the story of bullied Port Coquitlam teen who committed suicide

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
phylicia.torrevillas@metronews.ca

The B.C. government is hosting a bullying summit in the hopes of making sure no child has to experience it.

Students, teachers, parents, experts, police and community representatives were scheduled to gather at the Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue on West Hastings Street Monday to discuss how to best deal with bullying and reduce its impact.

The move is in response to the story of bullied Port Coquitlam teen Amanda Todd, whose suicide made headlines around the world.

The 15-year-old took her own life in mid-October after posting a YouTube video in September, describing her experiences at the hands of her alleged tormentors.

Students who have been impacted by bullying had planned to share their personal stories, while summit participants would get a chance to participate in discussions about the role of social media and how to promote a safe school environment.

"As a parent of two children, I can tell you that our ultimate goal is to make sure no child has to experience bullying," Education Minister Don McRae said in a statement. "We can only achieve that if every child grows up happy, healthy and supported — not only by their parents, but by their school and the community at large."

Premier Christy Clark, who helped start a pink-shirt day against bullying when she was a talk-show host at CKNW, was scheduled to moderate an expert panel, discussing prevention and intervention practices. Speakers include international author and renowned bullying expert Barbara Coloroso.

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Vancouver Island shooting.
Suspect could face multiple attempted-murder counts

The Mounties are recommending charges of attempted murder after an incident on Vancouver Island during which someone shot at a house from outside.

A news release says police responded to a report of gunshots early Saturday morning at a house in Qualicum Beach, about 60 kilometres northwest of Nanaimo.

A 22-year-old man was hit in the leg with a bullet and is expected to recover, while a 44-year-old woman also inside the home wasn't hurt.

About 90 minutes later, police pulled over a vehicle on a local highway and arrested a man without incident.

RCMP say they've recommended two counts of attempted murder, and the man will remain in custody at least until his next court appearance on Tuesday.

Police say they believe a suspect went to the house of his ex-girlfriend and shot at the home with a high-powered rifle before leaving in a pickup truck.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Blaze

Home destroyed in Abbotsford fire

A lifetime of memories has been wiped out in a Remembrance Day fire in Abbotsford.

An 88-year-old man and his elderly wife are OK, but their longtime home is in ashes after the blaze, which appears to have been sparked in the chimney.

NEWS1130/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Snow storm

Okanagan covered in snow

Central Okanagan found itself digging out from the first major snowfall of the season with as much as 10 centimetres falling in the West Kelowna area over the weekend.

Meanwhile, up to 15 centimetres of snow fell across the inland North Coast. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Development of Burnaby hospital political: NDP

What's their motive?
MLA argues leaked documents, emails prove Liberals spurred by vote in next election

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
phylicia.torrevillas@metronews.ca

Opposition MLAs continue to accuse the provincial government of political interference in the consultation process regarding the future of Burnaby Hospital, claiming that leaked documents and emails show that the Liberals are using the aged facility to get a vote in the next election.

Kathy Corrigan, NDP MLA for Burnaby-Deer Lake, claims the two sets of leaked emails outline how the Liberals plan to use Burnaby Hospital "as the issue (they) can win Burnaby Deer Lake on, re-win Burnaby North and Lougheed."

"The government's motivation into remaking Burnaby Hospital was devised by three Liberal operatives in an effort to unseat me and retain other seats," she said.

"It's a demonstration of a very sad, tired government that has reached the ends of its mandate and is behaving in desperate ways that are not good for the people of this province," said Corrigan.

Raj Chouhan, NDP MLA for Burnaby-Edmonds, left, and Kathy Corrigan, NDP MLA for Burnaby-Deer Lake, address reporters Monday outside Burnaby Hospital. The New Democrats, who released leaked provincial government emails, are accusing the Liberals of using the hospital as a campaign issue in the next provincial election. PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

A three-page document created last December by Pamela Gardner, Brian Bonney and Mark Robertson also advised Premier Christy Clark and those in her government to announce plans to rebuild the hospital even without any firm details.

Quoted

"I just want people to know that that isn't how we do things."

Health Minister Margaret MacDiarmid

"This would keep the issue ours without committing $$ and buy us time to do some polling and confirm this is a winning issue," reads the letter.

But Health Minister Margaret MacDiarmid said to suggest that the provincial government would plan a hospital based on politics is just wrong.

"I understand that the emails were very political, but I just want people to know that that isn't how we do things," she told Metro. "Even if our supporters are suggesting that we would, that is not how we do things.

"You will not hear Premier Christy Clark coming out and announcing redevelopment at Burnaby Hospital until such time we know exactly what the plan is and what capital is required."

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FEATURES Messina (Sicily), Athens, Kusadasi (Turkey), Rhodes, Santorini, Mikonos and Naples. WITH roundtrip airfare and 4-star Rome accom near the attractions.
Veranda was from ~~$3569~~
Veranda now from
STAY, FLY + CRUISE $3069

North Sea 14 nights + air
Celebrity Infinity, sails from Harwich (England).
FEATURES Oslo, Stavanger, Olden, Alesund, Geiranger, Flam and Bergen (Norway). WITH roundtrip airfare to London and accom in Earls Court.
Veranda was from ~~$4329~~
Veranda now from
STAY, FLY + CRUISE $3829

Grand Voyages

Caribbean 21 nights
Maasdam, sails from Ft Lauderdale.
FEATURES St Maarten, St Kitts, Barbados, Martinique, St Croix, Bahamas, Puerto Rico, St Thomas, Dominica and Antigua.
Inside from $2043

Suez Canal 22 nights
Rotterdam, sails from Rotterdam (Netherlands).
FEATURES Southampton, Lisbon, Malaga, Malta, Navplion (Greece), Athens, Safaga (Egypt) and Dubai.
Inside from $2298

Australia & South Pacific 25 nights + air
Oosterdam, sails from Sydney.
FEATURES New Caledonia, Fiji, Somoa Islands, Kauai, Oahu and Vancouver.
WITH airfare to Sydney and 4-star accom near Potts Point.
Inside from
STAY, FLY + CRUISE $3429

Australia & Indonesia 34 nights
Volendam, sails from Sydney.
FEATURES Brisbane, Whitsunday Islands, Townsville, Sherrard Island, Darwin, Komodo, Lombok, Exmouth, Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne and Burnie.
Oceanview from $5980

Cruise Packages

Anaheim Mother's Day 8 nights + air
Island Princess, sails from Los Angeles.
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Inside from
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Mexican Riviera Christmas 7 nights + air
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Cruise from $56/Night

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Adventure Of The Seas, sails from San Juan.
FEATURES St Croix, St Maarten, Antigua, St Lucia and Barbados.
Inside from $548

Mediterranean 11 nights
Norwegian Jade, sails from Rome.
FEATURES Alanya (Turkey), Limassol (Cyprus), Haifa (Israel), Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Crete and Naples.
Oceanview from $617

Transatlantic 10 nights
Brilliance Of The Seas, sails from San Juan.
FEATURES St Thomas, St Maarten and Lisbon.
Oceanview from $710

Asia 14 nights
Volendam, sails from Singapore.
FEATURES Ko Samui, Bangkok, Sihanoukville (Cambodia), Ho Chi Minh City, Nha Trang, Da Nang, Hanoi (Vietnam) and Hong Kong.
Inside from $1168

Panama Canal 15 nights
Celebrity Century, sails from San Diego.
FEATURES Cabo San Lucas, Puerto Vallarta, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia and Ft Lauderdale.
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Trudeau's team looks to U.S. Dems for advice

Liberal MP and leadership candidate Justin Trudeau attends a Remembrance Day ceremony in Montreal on Sunday. GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Victory. Justin Trudeau's campaign seeks out Obama's staff for lessons in winning

Hot on the heels of President Barack Obama's re-election victory, Justin Trudeau's Liberal leadership team is looking to U.S. Democrats for advice on how to win.

Mitch Stewart, who was the battleground-states director for the Obama campaign, has been sought out to speak to Trudeau's strategists on Thursday, according to officials with the campaign.

Trudeau's leadership bid is being organized around much of the same strategic goals that drove Obama's victories in 2008 and this year — rallying support from young people and other progressive-leaning voters who haven't traditionally cast ballots in elections.

If Trudeau wins, that is also the same approach he hopes to use to put the Liberals back on a competitive footing with the Conservatives in 2015.

Stewart, who rose to the top ranks of the Obama team after delivering a surprise win in Iowa in 2008, was the man in charge of getting out the Democratic vote this year in all-important swing states such as Ohio and Florida, where Obama was triumphant over Republican challenger Mitt Romney.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Comedy. TV star Stephen Colbert calls Ontario city the 'Earth's rectum'

In his latest book, comedian Stephen Colbert gives a wag of the finger to Ontario's City of Roses.

The book, entitled America Again: Re-becoming the Greatness We Never Weren't, contains a section about renewable energies and geothermal power.

"Before we can harness geothermal power, we have to take the planet's temperature with a geothermometer," reads the passage. "And I have no idea where the Earth's rectum is!"

A footnote on the latter sentence suggests "Windsor, Canada" as a possible location.

This isn't the first time the Comedy Central host has taken a swipe at Windsor, Ont. A 2007 segment on his show listed the city as one of the worst places on Earth.

Stephen Colbert GETTY IMAGES

City spokesperson Jason Moore questioned whether Colbert had ever been to Windsor, but declined to offer further comment. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Crime

Police officer raped by colleague fights back

Denise Robinson used to feel completely alone before making her story about being raped by a fellow police officer public.

But that changed once other female officers came forward with similar stories.

"For so long I thought this was an isolated case and I thought, 'oh my God, no one else has ever been through this before,'" said Robinson, a special constable with the Kativik Regional Police in northern Quebec.

She was raped by her colleague, Joe Willie Saunders, on Feb. 5, 2010, while she was intoxicated in her police residence after being driven home from a house party. Saunders pleaded guilty to sexual assault and was sentenced Aug. 24 to 18 months in jail.

Robinson said her employer stopped paying her after she reported the incident to her superiors a few days later because she was deemed unfit for work.

Denise Robinson METRO IN OTTAWA

Without work and a paycheque, she has been staying with family in Ottawa for the better part of two years while receiving treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder and fighting for lost pay from the police force.

Robinson said on Nov. 2 her employer offered her three months' pay if she quit her job.

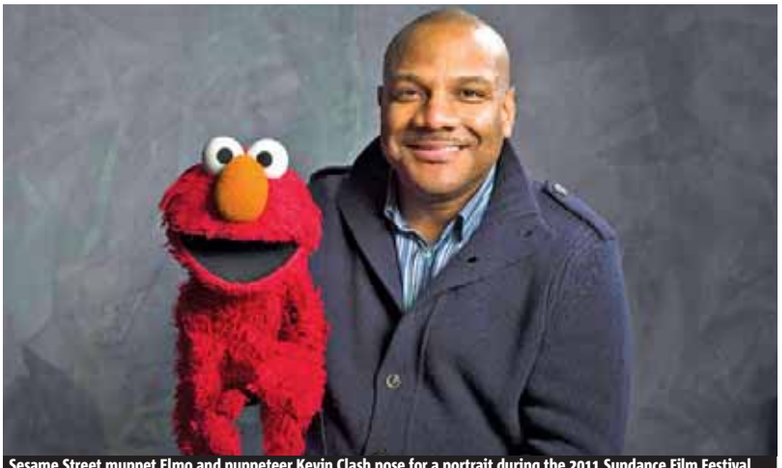
"Accepting that offer, to me, is telling them it's OK what they did," she said.

After she decided to make her story public and launch an online petition to protect female officers from abuse and discrimination, she said four female police officers have contacted her to tell their stories about sexual harassment in the workplace.

JOE LOFARO/METRO IN OTTAWA

Puppeteer accused of underage relations

Elmo. Allegations are unsubstantiated, but Kevin Clash is taking a leave of absence from Sesame Street



Sesame Street muppet Elmo and puppeteer Kevin Clash pose for a portrait during the 2011 Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah, to promote the film Being Elmo. Clash has taken a leave of absence from the popular kids' show following allegations that he had a relationship with a 16-year-old boy. VICTORIA WILL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

The puppeteer who performs as Elmo on Sesame Street is taking a leave of absence from the iconic kids' show in the wake of allegations that he had a relationship with a 16-year-old boy.

Puppeteer Kevin Clash, 52, has denied the charges, which, according to Sesame Workshop, were first made in June by the accuser, who by then was 23.

"We took the allegation very seriously and took immediate action," Sesame Workshop said in a statement issued Monday. "We met with the accuser twice and had repeated communications with him. We met with Kevin, who denied the accusation."

The organization described the relationship as "unrelated to the workplace." Its investigation found the allegation of underage conduct to be unsubstantiated. But it said Clash exercised "poor judgment" and was disciplined for violating company policy regarding Internet usage. It offered no details.

"I had a relationship with the accuser," Clash said in a statement of his own. "It was between two consenting adults and I am deeply saddened that he is trying to characterize it as something other than what it was."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Legalizing pot. Latin American leaders call for review of U.S. policy

Two U.S. state decisions to legalize marijuana will have implications for international efforts to quash drug smuggling, four Latin American leaders declared on Monday.

Mexico, Belize, Honduras and Costa Rica called for the Organization of American States to study the impact of the votes in Colorado and Washington, and said the United Nations' General Assembly should hold a special session on the prohibition of drugs by 2015 at the latest.

Marijuana legalization by U.S. state governments is "a paradigm change on the part of those entities in respect to the current international system," Mexican President Felipe Calderon said.

Mexico has seen tens of thousands of people killed over the last six years as part of a militarized government attempt to destroy the country's drug cartels. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Drug trafficking

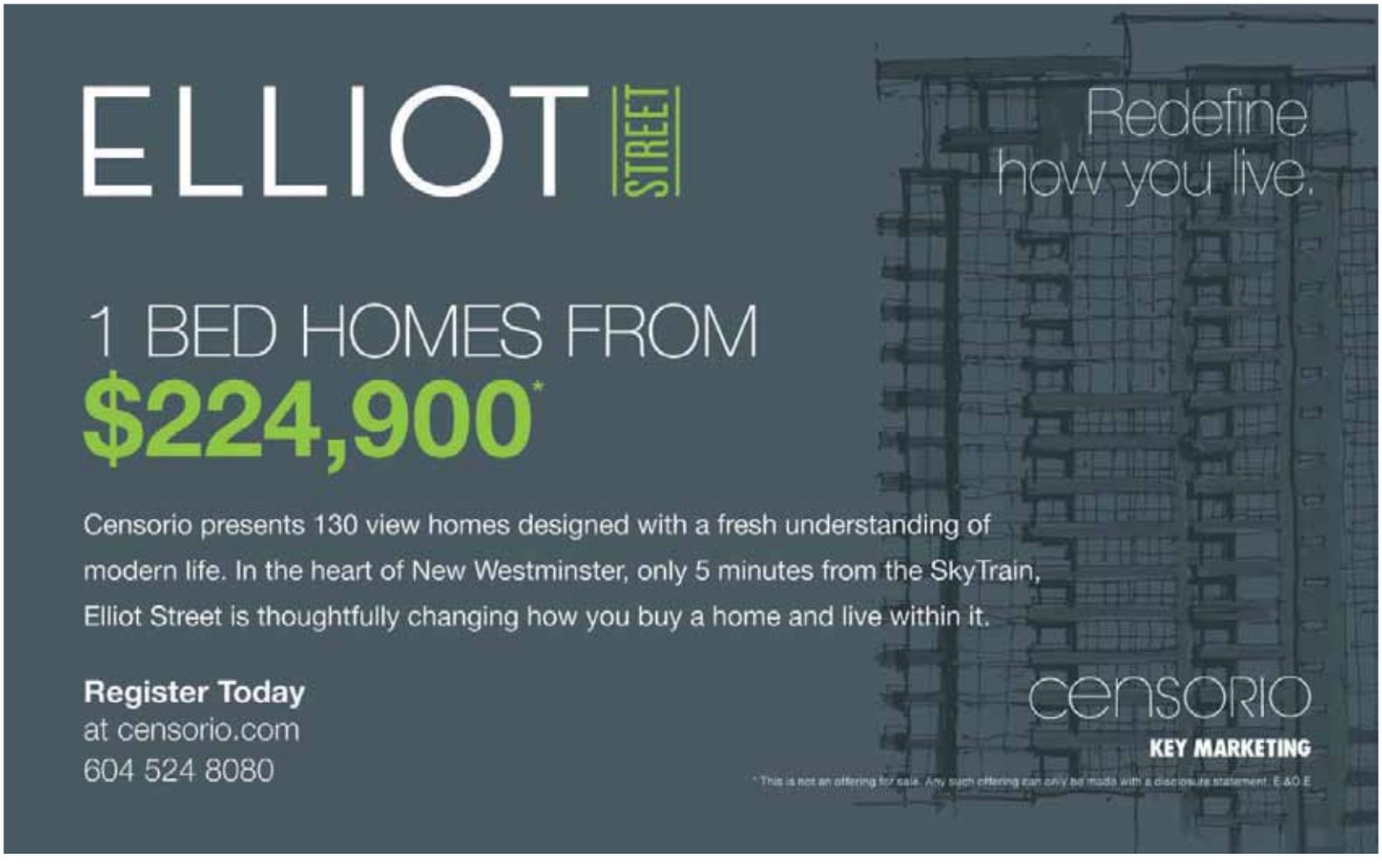
Mexico is one of the primary suppliers of marijuana to the U.S., while Honduras and Belize are important stops on the northward passage of cocaine from South America.

Act of vengeance

New IRA claims responsibility for first killing

A new Irish Republican Army faction in Northern Ireland claimed responsibility Monday for its first killing and defended the bloodshed as a necessary act of vengeance.

The group, a merger of factions that brands itself as simply the IRA, said in a statement to the Irish News in Belfast its members shot to death David Black this month because he worked as a guard at Northern Ireland's top-security Maghaberry prison. About 40 members of IRA factions are imprisoned there. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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Measure B. L.A. County vote requires porn stars to always use condoms

The show must go on, is the entertainer's credo, and it did just that in the U.S. Porn Capital even after Los Angeles County voted to require performers to use condoms when filming sex scenes.

One of the industry's biggest stars, James Deen, reported for work, condom-free as usual, just hours after voters adopted the new law.

During a break in the action Thursday, however, Deen raised the same questions on the mind of everyone in L.A.'s billion-dollar-plus porn industry: Can a planned court challenge get the new law tossed out before it is even implemented? Or, perhaps this time next year, will he be making films like Atomic Vixens in some place like Las Vegas or Florida?

The law, listed as Measure B, was passed by 56 per cent of voters. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Industry fears losses

"The last time we attempted to go all-condom, our industry lost sales by over 30 per cent."

Porn star James Deen

Ikea

Swedish retailer accused of benefiting from forced labour

Swedish furniture giant Ikea will release a report this week addressing claims it benefited from forced labour in communist East Germany, the company and victims groups said Monday.

The report by auditors Ernst & Young looks into allegations that Ikea used East German suppliers who employed prisoners — some of whom were political dissidents — to manufacture goods from the 1960s to 80s. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Decorated Indian sprinter charged with partner's rape

XY intersex. While Pinki Pramanik, 26, competed for India as a woman, gender tests confirm she's a man

A runner who won medals for India while competing as a woman was charged with rape on Monday after a gender test indicated she is actually a man, according to media reports.

Pinki Pramanik, 26, became a national star after rising from childhood poverty to win gold while anchoring India's 400-metre relay team at the 2006 Asian Games.

One of the charges

"Cohabitation caused by a man deceitfully inducing belief of a lawful marriage."

The wording on one of the charges faced by Pinki Pramanik

Pramanik won a silver medal at Sydney's Commonwealth Games the same year.

Pramanik became mired in controversy in June after the retired runner's live-in girlfriend accused Pramanik of being a man masquerading as a woman and of raping her.

Pramanik denies all the charges. On Monday, Agence-France Presse reported that the police had charged Pramanik with rape after a medical board set up to determine Pramanik's gender concluded she is a man.

She has also been charged with impersonation, cheating, assault and intimidation. The medics said Pramanik is a "male pseudohermaphrodite," a condition normally called XY intersex. It means the chromosomal sex and internal sex organs indicate the person is male, while external genitals appear female or are ambiguous.

Pramanik retired in 2008, disappearing from the public eye and buying a house in the eastern city of Kolkata. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Indian police on Monday charged Pinki Pramanik, an gold-medal-winning international athlete, with raping her former partner. AFP/GETTY IMAGES FILE

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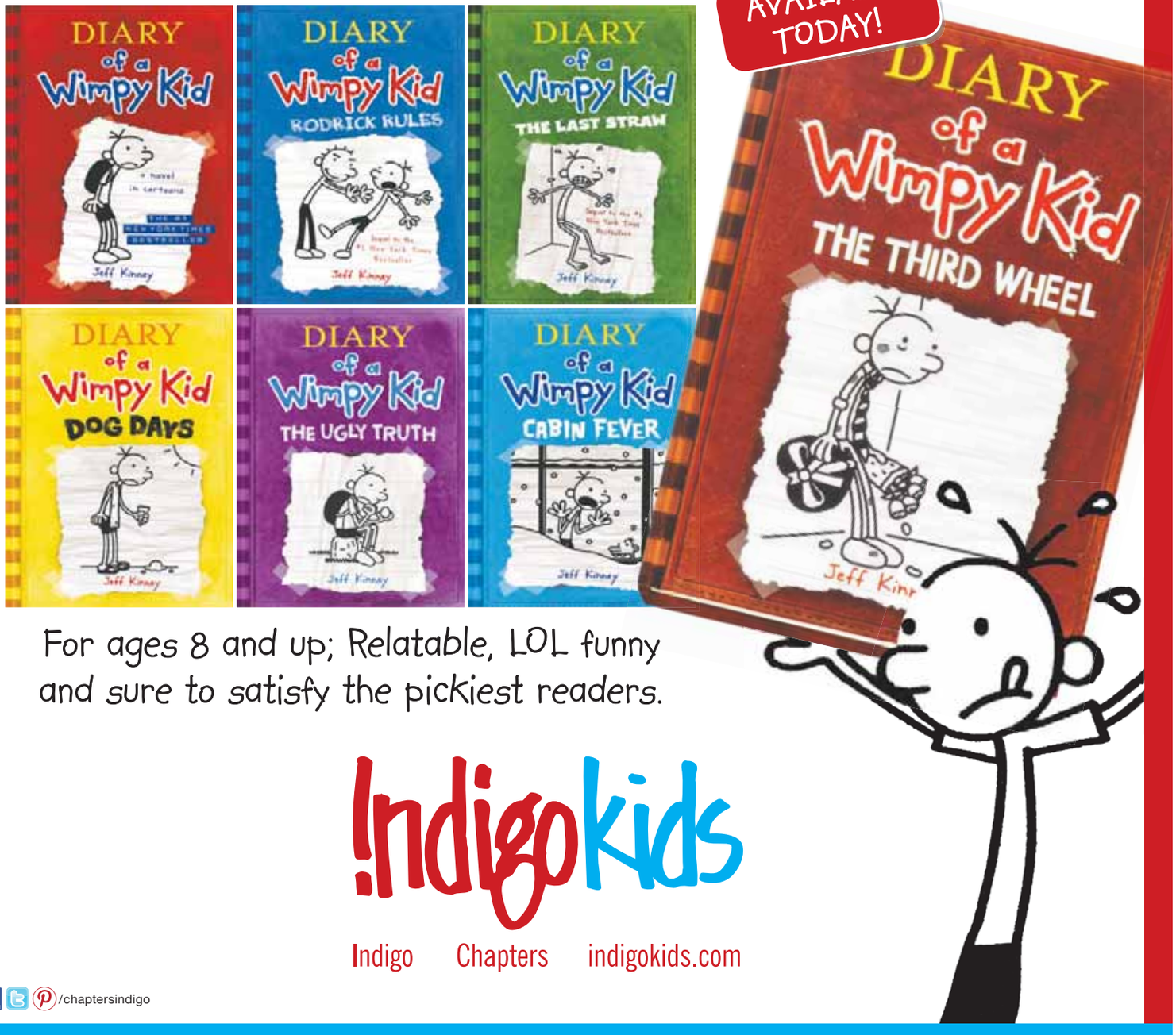
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Argentina issues ultimatum over seized sailing ship

Ghana. Ship held over decade-old bad debt

Argentina will ask the International Sea Tribunal to order the release of a seized navy sailing ship in Ghana, the South American government said on Monday.

The ARA Libertad training ship was seized on Oct. 2 in the port of Tema as collateral for unpaid bonds dating from Argentina's economic crisis a decade ago. Foreign Minister Hector Timerman said if Ghana does not free the vessel by Tuesday, Argentina will appeal before the tribunal in Hamburg, Germany.

"The legal representatives of the Foreign Ministry are already in that city to begin the legal actions," Timerman said in a press conference.

The ARA Libertad was ordered seized last month. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Argentina had warned Ghana that it would take the issue to the arbitrage court late last month following a United Nations convention on the rights of the sea, Timerman said. It also asked the African country to immediately restore power and water services to the vessel.

Ghanaian port authorities shut off the water and electricity to the ship last week when Argentina refused to let it be moved to a less-busy part of the port. Argentina's sailors pulled out rifles to prevent Ghanaian officials from boarding the vessel to move it.

"(Ghana officials) put a halt to this action and the calm has returned," Defence Minister Arturo Puricelli told reporters at the press conference. "But power and water services have not been restored."

Ghanaian Justice Richard Agyei-Frimpong ruled last week that the vessel should be moved because it is keeping other ships from berthing. Port officials say the port is losing tens of thousands of dollars per day in berthing fees.

The court ordered it held at port due to a court order in New York for Argentina to pay $1.3 billion to a group of investors in the country's defaulted debt.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Woman dragged away from pro-Tibetan protest

Indian police officers drag away a Tibetan Youth Congress (TYC) supporter as she protests outside the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi Monday. TYC supporters shouted anti-Chinese government slogans outside the embassy to show support for Tibetans inside China who have set themselves on fire in protest against the Chinese government. SAURABH DAS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cattle thefts

Bandits ambush Kenyan police, kill 34 officers

Suspected cattle thieves hid on a high hill and ambushed and killed at least 34 police officers pursuing them over the weekend in northwestern Kenya, a gruesome and powerful attack on government security forces that an official said Monday highlights the need for more reforms in the police force.

The police were killed over the weekend after being ambushed by bandits from the Turkana region who are suspected to have stolen another tribe's cattle.

The weekend slaughter raises concerns that Kenyan officials will not be able to stop violence if it breaks out during the country's next presidential election in March.

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Owner wonders if faulty furnace to blame for blast

Blast effect. 80 homes damaged, 31 may be demolished; damage put at $3.6 million

An enormous blast in the U.S. Midwest that killed two people, obliterated two homes and made dozens more uninhabitable came with no hint of warning, and the home owner on Monday wondered whether a faulty furnace was to blame.

Fire officials expressed amazement that only two people died late Saturday in the Indianapolis explosion, which rocked several houses from their foundations. Hundreds of residents evacuated. A fire burned for hours, engulfing dozens of homes.

The owner of the house that exploded, John Shirley, said he received a text message last week from his daughter about a problem with the furnace at the house the girl shares with her mother and her mother's boyfriend.

Emergency workers work at the site of a home that was destroyed by an explosion late Saturday in Indianapolis. The powerful blast damaged or destroyed nearly three dozen homes. DARRON CUMMINGS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

He said that when he asked if the furnace had been fixed, his daughter said yes, and he wasn't aware of any additional problems until he heard from his daughter again Sunday morning. Shirley said no one was home at the time of the explosion.

The blast flattened the house Shirley co-owns with his ex-wife and one next door that belongs to Jennifer Longworth and her husband, John.

The coroner's office had not yet identified the two people killed in the blast, but a candlelight vigil was held Sunday at the school where Jennifer Longworth teaches. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Human Rights Council. U.S. retains UN seat in only contested election

The United States was re-elected Monday to another three-year term on the UN Human Rights Council in the only contested election for the organization's top human rights body.

The U.S. was competing with four countries for three open seats belonging to the Western Group on the council. Germany and Ireland were also elected by the 193-member General Assembly.

African, Asian, Eastern European and Latin American countries put forward uncontested slates, meaning candidates were virtually certain of winning one of the 18 open seats up for grabs in this year's election on the 47-member council.

Several human rights groups have criticized a number of the candidates as unqualified, including Ivory Coast, Ethiopia, Gabon, Kazakhstan, Pakistan and Venezuela. The five Western nations competing for seats — the U.S., Germany, Ireland, Greece and Sweden — were all deemed qualified by the rights groups.

Argentina, Brazil, Ivory Coast, Estonia, Ethiopia, Gabon, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Montenegro, Pakistan, South Korea, Sierra Leone, United Arab Emirates and Venezuela were also elected Monday to three-year terms beginning Jan. 1, 2013.

Former U.S. president George W. Bush's administration boycotted the council when it was established because of its repeated criticism of Israel and its refusal to cite flagrant rights abuses in Sudan and elsewhere. But in 2009, then newly elected President Barack Obama sought to join the council. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ACLU comments

"Despite an imperfect human rights record, U.S. membership on the council helped turn the tide on key issues, especially in the area of LGBT rights, freedom of speech and association, and women's rights."

Jamil Dakwar, director of American Civil Liberties Union's Human Rights Program

In the spirit of light

An Indian man dressed as monkey god Hanuman participates in a religious procession ahead of Diwali, the Hindu Festival of Light, in Allahabad, India, Monday. Diwali, or Deepavali, will be celebrated on Tuesday.

RAJESH KUMAR SINGH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New Times CEO arrives amid BBC abuse scandal

Lingering allegations. Former director-general of BBC questioned over child sexual-abuse claims against children's TV host Jimmy Savile

Mark Thompson, newly named CEO of The New York Times Co., arrives at the paper's offices in New York on Monday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York Times Co. CEO Mark Thompson is starting his job on Monday as a widening scandal at his former employer, the BBC, ensues.

When the Times hired him in August, Thompson was hailed as someone who could help the company generate new revenue at a time when print publications are suffering from the loss of readers and advertisers.

Thompson had spent eight years as director-general of the British Broadcasting Corp., a publicly funded television network that boasts a weekly global audience of 166 million people over multiple platforms, including radio, digital satellite and cable channels.

In recent months, Thompson has faced questions over a decision by the BBC's Newsnight program last December to shelve an investigation into child sexual-abuse allegations against renowned BBC children's television host Jimmy Savile. That decision was made while Thompson was still in charge of the company.

Thompson has said he became aware of the investigative report long after it had been cancelled. When he inquired about its cancellation, he said he was told it had been terminated for journalistic reasons.

Savile, who died in October 2011, was known for his eccentricity, garish tracksuits and Cuban cigars. Early last month, BBC rival ITV aired a documentary which detailed sexual abuse allegations against Savile.

Since then, scores of women have come forward, alleging that they were abused by Savile when they were underage girls, sometimes in BBC dressing rooms. Savile's behaviour was the subject of speculation long before that, but it was never formally investigated by the BBC.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Zimbabwe government accused of jewel theft

Diamonds missing. Report casts shadow over President Mugabe's efforts to win international respect for country's gem trade

At least $2 billion US worth of diamonds have been stolen from Zimbabwe's eastern diamond fields and have enriched President Robert Mugabe's ruling circle, international gem dealers and criminals, according to an organization leading the campaign against conflict diamonds.

Zimbabwe's eastern Marange field has been mined since 2006 and its vast earnings could have turned around Zimbabwe's economy, battered by years of meltdown and political turmoil, the group said.

But funds from the diamond sales have not showed up in the state treasury. Instead there is evidence that millions have gone to Mugabe's cronies.

The report was released Monday to coincide with the Zimbabwe government's conference on the diamond trade. Government officials at the conference denied the report's allegations as "totally false." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Miners dig for diamonds in Marange, Zimbabwe. At least $2 billion US worth of diamonds have been stolen from Zimbabwe's eastern diamond fields and have enriched President Robert Mugabe's ruling circle, an organization says. TSVANGIRAYI MUKWAZHI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Heathrow Airport

Arrest made in terrorist investigation

British police say a man has been arrested at London's Heathrow Airport as part of an investigation into travel to Syria in support of alleged terrorist activity.

Scotland Yard said the 24-year-old, whose name and nationality were not provided, was taken into custody by counterterrorism officers after immigration officials stopped him once he arrived on a flight from Bahrain Monday morning.

Police said the man was arrested on suspicion of the "commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EU 2013 budget

Blocking aid to quake victims called shameful

The head of the European Parliament on Monday decried as shameful the delay by some countries in approving $850.5 million US to help Italy's Emilia Romagna region recover from this year's back-to-back earthquakes.

European Parliament President Martin Schulz said that EU members who have held up talks on the approval of the EU's 2013 budget, including the quake funds, "should feel ashamed."

Schulz said some EU countries were taking the earthquake aid "hostage" to get a more favourable deal from the budget negotiations. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weaponry makes a stand

An Afghan national army officer salutes during a handover of confiscated weapons as part of the Disbanding of Illegal Armed Group program in Laghman province, east of Kabul, Afghanistan, on Monday. The program is a U.S.-backed initiative for disarming illegal militants in Afghanistan. RAHMAT GUL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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A diamond-and-sapphire ring, left, and a platinum-and-diamond necklace are among pieces recovered from the Titanic that will start a three-city tour in Atlanta on Friday. The exhibition will be the largest collection of jewelry from the ship ever to go on display. JOHNNY CLARK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Titanic jewelry haul going on display

Atlanta. Largest-ever exhibit of bangles from wreckage starts tour

Most of the jewelry recovered from the wreckage of the Titanic will go on public display for the first time on Friday with a three-city tour.

The jewelry is from a single purser's bag found during a 1987 research and recovery mission. The collection includes diamond and sapphire rings, brooches, necklaces, cufflinks and a gold pocket watch.

Three-city tour

- After a two-month exhibition in Atlanta, the jewels will travel to Orlando, Fla., and Las Vegas.

Although single pieces of the jewelry have been on display at one or more permanent and travelling exhibitions sponsored by Premier Exhibitions Inc., their Atlanta debut is the first time the majority of the collection has been available to the public.

Alexandra Klingelhofer, vice-president of collections for RMS Titanic Inc., which owns the rights to salvage from the liner's wreck, said the purpose of the exhibition is to show the wonder of exploration.

"Going down two and a half miles below the ocean, recovering a bag, bringing it back up and opening it and finding ... jewelry," Klingelhofer said. "We're able to give them a glimpse of how it must have been to have opened that for the first time and to see, together, the beautiful jewelry of the Edwardian period."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Slander case. Damages against Girls Gone Wild founder cut by $21M

A judge has cut by more than half the $40 million US jury verdict that casino mogul Steve Wynn was recently awarded against Girls Gone Wild founder Joe Francis.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Joanne O'Donnell issued the ruling on Friday, cutting the award by $21 million US. Her ruling eliminates $20 million US in punitive damages the jury granted Wynn and $1 million US they said he deserved because of comments Francis made on Good Morning America.

The ruling affects only damages awarded in the case and preserves the jury's determination that Francis defamed Wynn on three occasions. Francis vowed to appeal the remainder of the verdict.

"Judge O'Donnell committed a judicial error by allowing this case to even proceed to a trial and she knows it," Francis said. "This is only the first step of her backpedalling and unwinding her illegal actions in order to try to keep her job as a judge."

Francis' lawyers also have argued the statements on ABC's national morning show were not part of the initial case and shouldn't be included in the judgment.

Will this man miss $21M?

- Steve Wynn is the CEO of Wynn Resorts Ltd. and designed Las Vegas casinos such as The Mirage, Bellagio, Wynn and Encore.

The trial, which ended in September, centred on Francis' claims that he was told Wynn had threatened to hit him in the head with a shovel and have him buried in the desert. Wynn denied making the threats and claimed they damaged his reputation and put his casino licence at risk.

Francis testified he heard about the claims from Grammy-winner Quincy Jones, who told the jury that no such statements were made. Francis also made the allegations on Good Morning America.

"Steve Wynn is very happy with a $19 million compensatory damages award," said Wynn's attorney Mitchell Langberg. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Toronto

War memorial defaced on Nov. 11

Police are investigating after a war memorial was vandalized on Remembrance Day in Toronto.

The Victory Peace memorial in Coronation Park was defaced with the words "Canada will burn praise Allah" written in what appeared to be black marker. City workers were called in to clean the bronze memorial, built in the 1990s.

Police say they don't have any suspects at the moment. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Nov. 29

Palestinians set date to bid for UN status upgrade

The official news agency of the Palestinian Authority says Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has set a date of Nov. 29 for seeking nonmember observer status at the UN. The status upgrade could add weight to Palestinian claims for a state in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Manure assault on royals sniffed out by police

Six-day tour. New Zealander charged with planning to throw horse manure on Prince Charles, wife during royal visit

Britain's Prince Charles greets well-wishers on Queen Street in Auckland, New Zealand, on Monday. ROSS SETFORD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police say they caught a New Zealand man before he had a chance to throw a bucket of horse manure over Prince Charles and his wife Camilla during a royal visit to the Pacific nation.

Castislav "Sam" Bacanov, 76, pleaded not guilty in an Auckland court Tuesday to planning a crime in a public place. He has agreed under his bail conditions to keep at least 500 metres from the royal couple.

The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall are on a six-day tour of New Zealand, the last leg of their Pacific tour marking Queen Elizabeth II's 60th Jubilee.

Police spokeswoman Noreen Hegarty said officers arrested Bacanov, a known anti-royalist, on Monday near a downtown Auckland venue where Charles and Camilla were due to appear. She said the royal couple had not yet arrived at the outdoor venue and were never in any danger.

Hegarty said officers were making sure the area was safe when they noticed the man with the bucket.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Israel scores 'direct hits' on Syria

First open clash. Israeli military says Syrian mobile artillery was hit after responding to stray mortar fire

Israeli tanks struck a Syrian artillery launcher Monday after a stray mortar shell flew into Israel-held territory, the first direct clash between the neighbours since the Syrian uprising began nearly two years ago.

The confrontation fuelled new fears that the Syrian civil war could drag Israel into the violence, a scenario with grave consequences for the region. The fighting has already spilled into Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey.

"We are closely monitoring what is happening and will respond appropriately. We will not allow our borders to be violated or our citizens to be fired upon," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Monday in a speech to foreign ambassadors.

While officials believe Syrian President Bashar Assad has no interest in picking a fight with Israel, they fear the embattled Syrian leader may try to draw Israel into the fighting in a bout of desperation. Israeli officials believe it is only a matter of time before Syrian rebels topple the longtime leader.

The conflict has already spilled over into several of Syria's other neighbours — whether in direct violence or in the flood of refugees fleeing the bloodshed.

More than 36,000 Syrians have been killed in the fighting, according to estimates by anti-Assad activists.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Potential consequences

- Although the Israeli military is more modern and powerful, Syria has a collection of chemical weapons that could wreak havoc if deployed.
- Fighting between the two countries could drag in Syria's close ally, the Lebanese guerrilla group Hezbollah, or Islamic militant groups in the Gaza Strip.

Smoke rises after shells fired by the Syrian army explode in the Syrian village of Bariqa on Monday. ARIEL SCHALIT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hezbollah leader addresses supporters on Martyrs Day

Mother of Ali Shaaban, left, a television cameraman working for Al-Jadeed TV who was shot dead on the Lebanon-Syria border in April, holds his portrait as she listens to the speech of Hezbollah leader Sheik Hassan Nasrallah during a rally marking Hezbollah Martyrs Day in a southern suburb of Beirut, Lebanon, Monday. At right, Hezbollah members carry the Hezbollah and Lebanese flags as they march during the rally. Nasrallah spoke to supporters via satellite link, and dismissed the new Syrian opposition leadership announced in Doha, Qatar, on Sunday as being American-backed. BILAL HUSSEIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deportation. Radical preacher wins appeal

A radical Islamist cleric described by prosecutors as a key al-Qaida operative in Europe cannot be deported from Britain to Jordan to face terrorism charges, judges ruled Monday in the latest twist to a protracted legal saga.

Britain's government has been attempting since 2001 to expel radical preacher Abu Qatada, who has been convicted in his absence from Jordan of terrorist offences related to two alleged bomb plots.

Though the country's Home Office said it intended to appeal the decision, Judge John Mitting granted the cleric bail and said he would be freed from prison on Tuesday — despite a claim from a government lawyer that he poses a major security threat.

In Monday's ruling, Britain's Special Immigration Appeals Commission, which handles major terrorism and deportation cases, said it is not convinced that Jordan would guarantee Abu Qatada a fair trial. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Charges

Abu Qatada, a Palestinian-born Jordanian cleric, was convicted in Jordan over terror plots in 1999 and 2000, and he will face a retrial if deported there from Britain.

Gaza. Rocket fire steps up pressure on Israel

Gaza militants pummelled southern Israel with rockets for a third day in a row on Monday, increasing internal pressure on the Israeli government to retaliate.

A million Israelis are in range of the rockets. Israeli leaders have warned they won't tolerate continued barrages and have threatened a more forceful response.

Six Palestinians have been killed in Israeli counter-strikes, Palestinians said.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told foreign ambassadors that Israel would defend itself.

Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak met with the military chief of staff and other senior officials Monday evening to determine how to respond to the rocket fire.

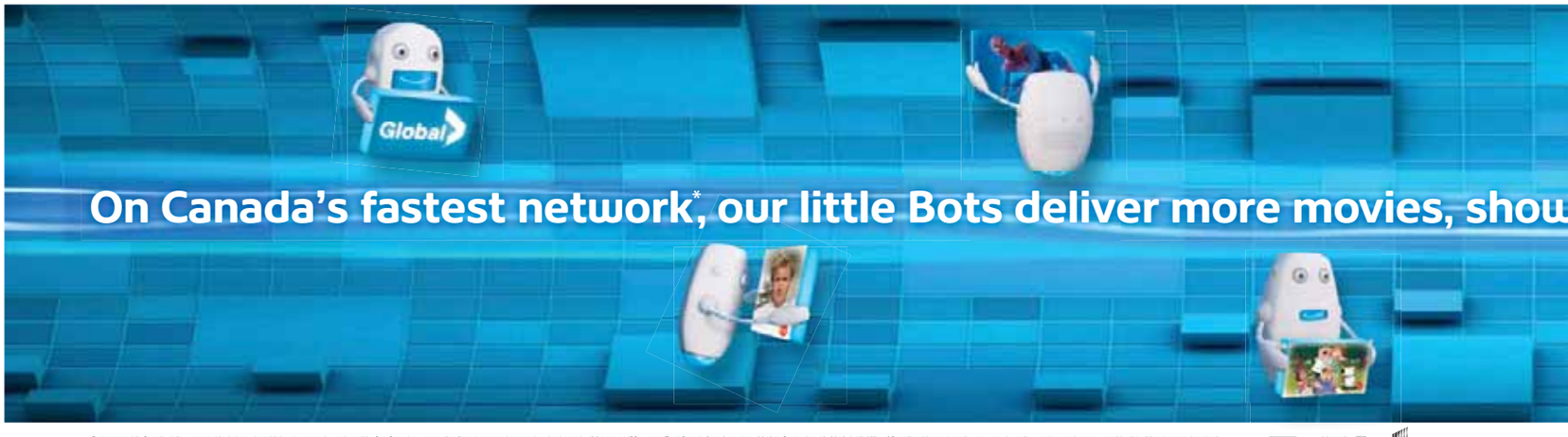
Some Israelis are demanding a military operation similar to Israel's bruising incursion into Gaza four years ago. Others believe Israel should target Hamas leaders, a method it used to kill dozens of top militants nearly a decade ago.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In numbers

110

More than 110 rockets have hit Israeli towns since the latest round began, according to the Israeli military.



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Oxford. 'Omnishambles' is the word for 2012

Britain's media are in a meltdown and its government is gaffe-prone, so Oxford Dictionaries has chosen an apt word of the year: "Omnishambles."

Oxford University Press on Tuesday crowned the word — defined as "a situation that has been comprehensively mismanaged, characterized by a string of blunders and miscalculations" — its top term of 2012.

Each year Oxford University Press tracks how the English language is changing and chooses a word that best reflects the mood of the year. The publisher typically chooses separate British and American winners. This year's American champion is "gif," short for graphics interchange format, a common format for images on the Internet.

Coined by writers of the satirical television show The Thick of It, omnishambles has been applied to everything from government PR blunders to the crisis-ridden preparations for the London Olympics.

Oxford University Press lexicographer Susie Dent said the word was chosen for its popularity as well as its "linguistic productivity."

She said "a notable coinage coming from the word is Romneyshambles" — a derisive term used by the British press after U.S. presidential candidate Mitt Romney expressed doubts about London's ability to host a successful Olympics.

Omnishambles was chosen over shortlisted terms including "mummy porn" — the genre exemplified by the best-selling 50 Shades of Grey book series.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quebec

Public daycare vowed for all

Quebec's new premier says she plans to complete a project she launched 15 years ago and wants to bring low-cost public daycare to every Quebec family that wants it.

Premier Pauline Marois, who as education minister in 1997 introduced the landmark public daycare program, promised Monday to iron out its flaws within four years.

The famous $7-a-day daycare program is plagued by a shortage of available spaces and, for many families, getting off the waiting list remains an illusory dream.

Marois says the shortages could have been fixed years ago, had the previous Liberal government made it a priority.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Flaherty

Economic update due from Ottawa

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty is issuing the fall economic update on Tuesday, a mid-term report card many expect will show a modest deterioration in the government's finances.

The report will be released in Ottawa and in Fredericton, N.B., where Flaherty is speaking to the local chamber of commerce.

A senior government official said Canadians should not expect any big surprises in the update, such as new tax or spend measures.

Last month, Flaherty revealed government revenues had been lower than expected due to a drop in the global price of resource commodities that Canada exports to the world. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Petraeus scandal heats up big time

All In. The biographer, the close 'family friend', the threatening emails and the general caught in the storm of his life

Paula Broadwell, author of the David Petraeus biography All In, left, allegedly sent threatening emails to Jill Kelley, right, a friend of Petraeus and his wife. Petraeus resigned as director of the CIA Friday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A CIA sex scandal seemingly torn from the pages of a best-selling spy novel is enthralling the United States despite the aftermath of a presidential election that has spurred a substantive debate about the changing face of America.

Divided as they may be politically, however, Americans are united in their fascination with the scandal engulfing David Petraeus, the director of the world-renowned spy agency who quit last week after admitting an extra-marital affair.

The relationship was revealed when the FBI discovered his lover, Paula Broadwell, had sent threatening emails to yet another woman, Jill Kelley — who insists she's a close family friend of Petraeus and his wife, not a second paramour. The messages warned the Tampa woman to stay away from Petraeus.

According to a blog written by Petraeus's adult daughter, Anne, Kelley and her husband were close to the Petraeuses. The two families and their children often spent Christmas and Thanksgiving together in recent years.

Kelley complained to the FBI when the emails began appearing in her inbox over the summer.

Petraeus, 60, was reportedly stunned to learn his lover was behind the harassment of the woman she believed to be a romantic rival.

The celebrated four-star general and Broadwell, 40, had known one another for six years, but their affair didn't start until after he left the army last year, said Steve Boylan, a retired Army colonel and close friend of Petraeus's.

While there have been reports that the romance began earlier in 2011, Boylan told ABC's Good Morning America on Monday that it began a year ago — shortly after Petraeus took over as head of the CIA — and ended about four months ago.

Broadwell spent time in Afghanistan in 2010, while Petraeus was still serving there as the top U.S. commander. He granted her wide access as she worked on her glowing biography on him, with its suddenly titillating title All In.

"This was poor judgment on his part," Boylan said.

"It was a colossal mistake; he knows that, he's acknowledged that. Now he and his family are going to try to move forward and past this," he said.

Holly Petraeus, the general's wife of almost 40 years, "is not exactly pleased right now," Boylan added.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paula Broadwell

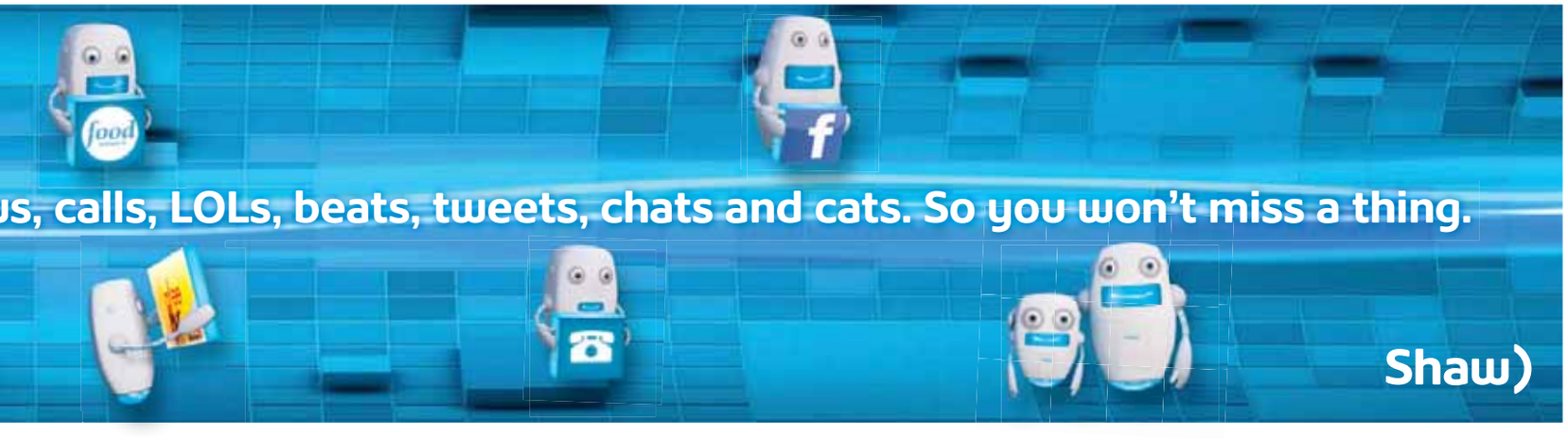
Petraeus' lover causes storm

The CIA is denying an assertion made by David Petraeus' biographer and former lover that the agency held militants in Libya before the Sept. 11 attack that killed the U.S. ambassador.

During a talk last month at the University of Denver, Paula Broadwell said the CIA had detained people at a secret facility in Benghazi and the attack on the U.S. Consulate was an effort to free those prisoners.

President Barack Obama issued an executive order in January 2009 stripping the CIA of its authority to take prisoners. The move means the CIA can no longer operate secret jails as it did under the administration of President George W. Bush.

CIA spokesman Preston Golson said "any suggestion that the agency is still in the detention business is baseless." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Market Minute

DOLLAR
100.04¢
(+0.17¢)

Figure reflects currency's value on international markets in mid-afternoon trading. The Canadian dollar did not trade in Canada Monday as banks were closed for Remembrance Day.

TSX
12,191.46 (-5.34)

OIL
$85.57 US (-50¢)

GOLD
$1,730.90 US

Natural gas: $3.57 (+6.7¢)
Dow Jones: 12,815.16 (-0.23

BB10 devices

RIM to unveil new BlackBerrys Jan. 30

Research In Motion made another step towards the release of its new BlackBerry smartphones Monday, saying it plans to unveil the devices and its new operating system on Jan. 30. It did not say when customers will be able to buy the devices. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Brick acquisition will help Leon's keep lid on costs

Retailing. Companies plan to flex their joined purchasing power

A combined Leon's and The Brick should be able to enhance their competitiveness in an increasingly gritty retail environment even though both banners will continue to fly separately, the companies and analysts said Monday.

The friendly purchase of Edmonton-based The Brick by Toronto-based Leon's for $700 million has less to do with direct competition posed by giant American retailers such as Target or Wal-Mart, they said, than with the need to keep a lid on costs.

"What's most in the forefront of our minds is: The economy is difficult, generally it's not growing, and if it is growing, it's growing very slowly," said Terry Leon, CEO of Leon's who will head up the combined entity.

Terry Leon, president and CEO of Leon's, chats with Vi Konkle, president and CEO of The Brick, after a news conference in Toronto on Monday. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

"So the best way to grow and to expand is to, if you can, make a purchase that makes sense."

The Canadian retail landscape has been shifting in recent years as more American chains in search of growth opportunities make their way north, which has increased competition in retail segments, including furniture.

As well, many Canadian retailers from Loblaw to Canadian Tire have moved to compete by diversifying their offerings, including through furniture sales, to become more of a one-stop shop experience for consumers.

The companies said they had no plans to close any stores or lay off any employees. Rather, they said, they would try to become more competitive initially by flexing their combined purchasing muscles and by joining distribution channels. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Double-doubles are spreading across the Middle East. In this file photo, customers line up in a new Tim Hortons store in Dubai last September. Now, the chain has expanded to Oman. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Oman. Tim Hortons opens 20th Gulf states restaurant

Oman has its first Tim Hortons restaurant as the iconic Canadian chain expands operations in the Persian Gulf states.

The Oman restaurant is the 20th Tim Hortons to open in the region since the chain signed a master licence agreement with the Apparel Group last year. The agreement calls for up to 120 multi-format stores to be opened in the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and Oman over a five-year period.

"We're thrilled that the Apparel Group has reached the milestone of 20 restaurants in the GCC (Gulf Co-operation Council), since opening the first location in Dubai in September of 2011," said David Roy, Tim Hortons' managing director of international operations.

Using a targeted approach to explore international opportunities is part of the company's strategic plan. "The company will continue to focus on expansion in existing GCC markets, focusing next on Qatar," it said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

By the numbers

4,100

Tim Hortons has more than 4,100 restaurants, including more than 3,300 in Canada.

Spanish banks freeze mortgage evictions

Mortgage Victims Platform member Marta Uriarte, centre, who has stopped the auction of her home three times, speaks outside Caja Madrid's main office on Monday in Madrid. Spain's banks announced that for the next two years they will suspend mortgage-related evictions of the most vulnerable people. There have been around 350,000 house evictions since Spain's property market crashed in 2008. PABLO BLAZQUEZ DOMINGUEZ/GETTY IMAGES

Quebec. Victims' fund set up after plant blast

A special fund will be created to help the families of victims in a plant explosion last week that killed three people, sent 19 to hospital and flattened an industrial facility.

The company that owns the plant, Neptune Technologies & Bioressources, announced its plan to set up the fund Monday.

It said the fund would pay for psychological help and offer financial assistance to families of workers who were killed or remained in hospital.

An explosion and subsequent fire destroyed the company's production plant in Quebec's Eastern Townships. The explosion could be heard for kilometres, and the fire reduced the plant to heaps of charred rubble.

It was one of two similar incidents in Quebec within a 24-hour period. Several hours later, an explosion rocked a plant in the same region belonging to Bombardier Recreational Products.

Bombardier said Monday that one of its employees, who was in hospital, had died from his injuries. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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I'LL CRY IF I WANT TO

SHE SAYS...
Jessica Napier
metronews.ca

Wherever I am in the city, I am never more than five blocks away from somewhere I have cried.

As a non-hermit kind of person who happens to have a lot of feelings at inconvenient times, I am no stranger to the public meltdown. And I'm not just talking about socially acceptable places like during a funeral or in a darkened movie theatre; I mean everywhere.

I have welled up on crowded buses during rush hour, sobbed in department-store fitting rooms, bawled uncontrollably over dinner at fancy restaurants, and let myself go in plenty of other very public locales.

A sob story

I can usually will myself to get it together after a couple of minutes but I'm always left feeling a little uncomfortable after inviting strangers to witness my personal suffering.

I have always been a crier. Tearing up is my go-to response mechanism for an array of feelings — sadness, joy, heartbreak and anger all lead to waterworks. There is never a particularly good time to cry, but doing it in public is always embarrassing.

I can usually will myself to get it together after a couple of minutes but I'm always left feeling a little uncomfortable after inviting strangers to witness my personal suffering.

I suppose it would be OK if I were an attractive weeper. Back when The Hills was must-see TV, I watched Lauren Conrad in awe as she gracefully mastered the perfect single tear.

Unfortunately, my sob sessions leave me looking like a blubbering mess with swollen red eyes and a gruesome mixture of mascara and snot streaming down my face.

I've always thought of my tendency to burst into tears as a sign of weakness. I felt as though I was exhibiting a complete lack of self control every time I lost it during a sentimental reality-show moment or when I missed the bus by seven seconds.

But as our communication channels evolve and our real emotions become increasingly replaced with cartoon-like emoticons, I've come to realize that crying is actually an incredible embodiment of our own mood.

It doesn't get more real than being so overwhelmed with emotion that you find yourself breaking down in the washroom at the office or sobbing quietly in a Starbucks lineup.

Passionate feelings can be untimely and awkward, but we shouldn't challenge ourselves to suppress them.

In fact, we should be embracing our volatile moods.

Crying in public means you're actually having a real emotional experience in the three-dimensional world; not just LOLing at another YouTube clip on your iPhone.

After all, if the most powerful man in America can shed a few tears of joy after being re-elected, then we should recognize that there's no shame in breaking down in front of one another.

Follow Jessica Napier on Twitter @MetroSheSays

Bad hair day got you feeling frazzled? Don't worry — cry about it. ISTOCK

It's a snake on a plain

FRANCO BANFI/SOLENT

Wildlife photography

Diver takes risk to see anaconda

A brave diver gets up close to a huge anaconda snake after it gobbled up its prey.

Underwater photographer Franco Banfi, 54, ventured close enough to touch the scary, lengthy beast as it lay in the sun.

Thankfully, its swollen belly shows it has recently eaten a capybara rodent and will have little interest in feeding again for a while. METRO

In movies and reality

Monstrously big, but lazy, sluggish

Anaconda, the 1997 adventure-horror movie starring Jennifer Lopez and Jon Voight, depicts the bulky reptile as a monstrous beast that targets humans.

In truth, anacondas are non-venomous and tend to move in a rather sluggish manner.

"As humans, we tend to judge animals, we look above them. It's easier to label them as dangerous than anything else," Banfi said. METRO

Brazilian region

Translates to 'thick forest of the south'

Banfi saw six different female anaconda snakes on his 10-day trip to the Mato Grosso do Sul region in southern Brazil, right in the heart of South America.

The region, whose name literally means "thick forest of the south," is known for its diverse natural beauty.

"Normally, these snakes bathe in mud, so we were lucky to get the photos in the end," says Banfi. METRO

Anaconda's size

8

metres and 200 kilograms is the approximate length and weight of this anaconda specimen. Due to its massive size, the anaconda feeds on a range of prey from large rodents, such as capybaras, pigs, caiman crocodiles and even jaguars.

Metropolitan Panel

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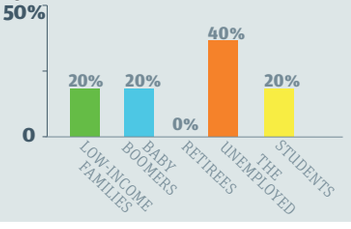
Who is hit the worst in this post-recession economy?



Twitter

@strombone1: Had the privilege 2 play with Pavel Bure. Typical night would consist of: - 1 backcheck - 4 strides all game - 4 packs of gum - 2 to 3 goals

@Jeremy_Roenick: Congrats to Bure, Sakic, Oates &Sundin. A Tremendous amount of skill, grit, flash, toughness! Great Guys to honor! @NHLPA @hockeyhallfame

@mirtle: Only players ahead of Bure in career points per game not yet in Hall of Fame: Crosby, Forsberg, Nilsson, Malkin, Jagr, Ovechkin, Lindros.

@emptynetters: 2012 HHOF class has average rating of 86.3 on NHL '94 (Oates 93, Bure 90, Sakic 83, Sundin 79). The '11 class had an average rating of 79.8.

metro

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Biography looks at Boss's family, his music and his drive for fame

Bruce. Author balances inner fan boy with unveiling Springsteen's imperfections

PAT HEALY
scene@metronews.ca

When Peter Ames Carlin learned that Bruce Springsteen was willing to sit down with him for the Boss biography that he was writing, the author had to keep himself in check.

Yes, this was the first time that Springsteen would be cooperating with a biographer in 25 years, and yes, this was the man who had helped inform his world vision, but Carlin had a warts-and-all book to write.

"The fan boy in me had been locked in a cage long before I got to meet Bruce," says the author. "When I met him, it was super-intense, but for me, the thing that mattered at that point was that I was working on this book and this could conceivably be the difference between it being an extraordinary book and being another book about Bruce Springsteen."

The book, simply titled Bruce does, arguably, achieve the distinction that he was hoping for.

Through intimate interviews with family members and band members past and present, Carlin unearths previously unpublished anecdotes about his subject's childhood (as a little kid, Springsteen kept the same nocturnal rock star hours he does now), about his early rocking years (one of Springsteen's bands honoured a commitment at a small New Jersey club rather than accepting an invitation to play Woodstock in 1969) and his family struggles with mental illness.

"A big part of how this book advances the story is being very up front about how his dad was manic depressive. He had a serious untreated mental illness for his entire adult life," says Carlin. "We were talking later about depression or something and I said to him, 'Bruce, you said something to me that made me wonder, and it seemed like you were telling me that you take antidepressants. Am I correct?' and he said, 'Yeah.' And I said, 'How would you feel about me putting that in the book?' and he was silent for a second and then he said, 'Yeah, that's OK.'"

The man that emerges from the 474 pages of Bruce is alternately a controlling boyfriend, a driven bandleader, a junk food junkie and an artist who is constantly challenging himself.

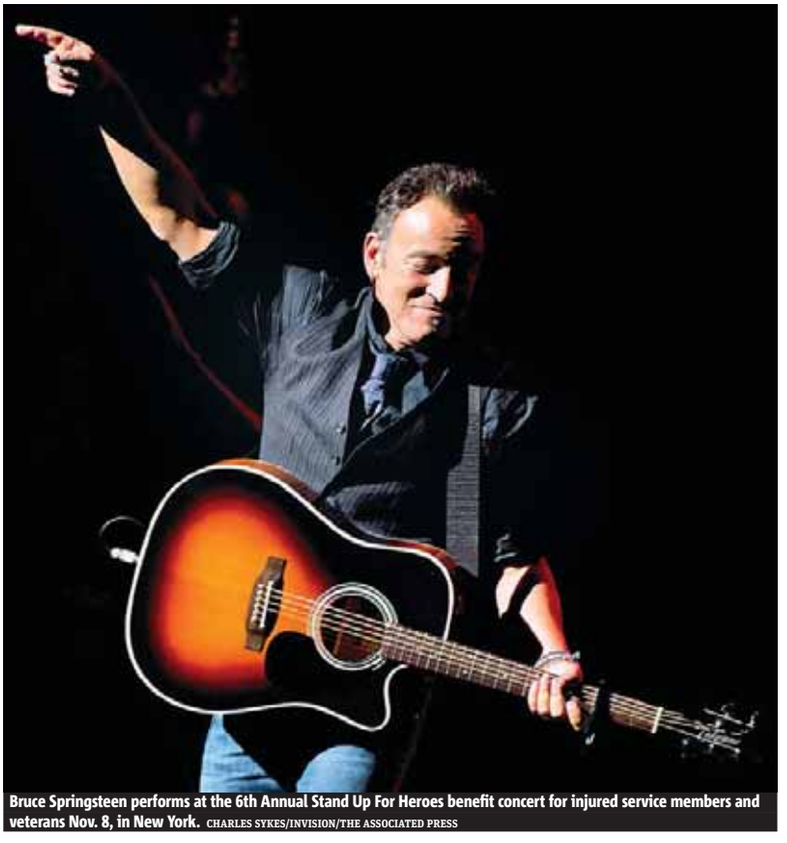
"He works really hard at being a good man and doesn't always live up to his own expectations of himself," says Carlin. "It felt very important to me to report stories I had heard about him being a dick. And I watched him have a temper tantrum on stage, at a soundcheck, furious at a guy who wasn't even at work yet."

Even though Carlin unveils these imperfections and his inner fan boy is securely locked up throughout the narrative, he says his respect for Springsteen's artistic vision is unwavering.

"He's so smart, so sensitive and so unafraid to dive into the darkness and mourn the horrors of the world, but also maintains that belief in possibility," he says.

Carlin was not the only one who learned a lot about Bruce Springsteen during this three-year writing process.

"He told me later, after he read the book, that part of what he valued about it was that he was reminded of how special the people in his life were," says Carlin.



Bruce Springsteen performs at the 6th Annual Stand Up For Heroes benefit concert for injured service members and veterans Nov. 8, in New York. CHARLES SYKES/INVISION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Keep pushin' 'til it's understood

Photographer Eric Meola, best known for capturing Springsteen and late E Street Band sax legend Clarence Clemons on the iconic cover of Born to Run, has also recently released a new book on the Boss.

The book, Streets of Fire: Bruce Springsteen in Photographs and Lyrics 1977-1979 is another rare glimpse of an artist who is constantly evolving.

Many of the shots were taken at the sparsely decorated farmhouse Springsteen rented after Born to Run made him a star. The shots almost look like demo versions of the cover of Darkness on the Edge of Town, which came out in 1978.

"Every time we would get together, we would end up doing something very different from the time before," says Meola. "He would stand in attic alcoves with light coming in and creating beautiful shadows and I started to realize that the emptiness of the house reflected a lot of the loneliness and despair that was going on in the music."

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DVD review

The Amazing Spider-Man

Director. Marc Webb

Stars. Andrew Garfield, Emma Stone

It's impossible to watch director Marc Webb's The Amazing Spider-Man without recalling that there have already been three blockbuster Spider-Man movies, the ones made over the past decade by Sam Raimi.

Webb's reboot hits the same origin-story beats as the first Raimi Spider-Man — missing parents, teen angst, radioactive spider bite, super Spidey powers and lizard foe. Some story threads are rearranged and there are a couple of newish characters, but it's really all the same tangled web.

Andrew Garfield makes a dandy Peter Parker, Spider-Man's teen alter ego, and an even better Spidey, being far closer to the smartass Marvel Comics original than Tobey Maguire's wan depiction in the Raimi series. And Garfield is well paired with Emma Stone, who plays Peter's first love, Gwen Stacy, with a smile that could melt steel.

As a visual experience, the film falls prey to memory. There are some good set pieces and the 3D is for once not obtrusive. But there's nothing terribly original, exciting or funny about it, and action scenes are not Webb's forte.

If you haven't seen the earlier blockbuster franchise or have forgotten it, you may enjoy this webslinger redux. For the rest of us, the movie should really be called The Adequate Spider-Man.

Extras include a commentary track, deleted scenes and making-of featurettes.

PETER HOWELL

Andrew Garfield plays Spidey in the Spider-Man reboot. HANDOUT

Brave

Director. Mark Andrews, Brenda Chapman, Steve Purcell

Stars. Kelly Macdonald, Billy Connolly and Emma Thompson

With a rebellious princess (voiced by Kelly Macdonald) as its lead character, Brave is a bold departure for Pixar. It's the toon titan's first feature with a female lead.

Sassy archer Merida is no damsel in distress. Far from it, her spirit is as bright as her wild flaming red tresses, and her tongue is as sharp as her tips of her arrows.

Merida lives in the ancient kingdom of DunBroch, a place of towers and tartans Pixar renders magnificently. She lives with her father, King Fergus (Billy Connolly), and her mother, Queen Elinor (Emma Thompson).

Alas, everything is not storybook perfect in DunBroch: King Fergus lost a leg and gained a grudge in a battle with an ancient bear, and he has rival clans to contend with, all of whom have idiot sons they're eager to marry off to Merida. She wants none of them.

Brave follows an entirely predictable trajectory — unusual for a Pixar film — but it's not without its amusements. The film's best moments are between Merida and her mother as they seek to settle their differences, both supernatural and natural.

Sometimes, the bravest thing of all is mending broken family ties.

Extras include La Luna theatrical short, director's commentary, extended scenes and making-of featurettes.

PETER HOWELL

Kelly Macdonald voices the role of a rebellious princess in Brave. HANDOUT

Decision day bearing down on the Bachelor

Reality television. Canadian bachelor Brad Smith is only a few weeks away from choosing between the last two women

One bachelor, two women, one big decision.

That's what it comes down to as The Bachelor Canada heads towards that final rose.

After weeks of criss-crossing Canada on fantasy dates that also extended into romantic getaways to Paris, Mexico and New York, Canadian bachelor Brad Smith is about to announce his big decision. After speed-dating his way through 25 contestants, indulging in horseplay and hot tubbing, he has narrowed it down to 28-year-old Bianka, a nurse from Mississauga, Ont., and 24-year-old Whitney, an administrative assistant from Calgary. Smith, 29, has caught passes before. The CFL free agent wide receiver has played for Montreal, Toronto and Edmonton. His dad is former CFL commissioner Larry Smith.

With roots in football, Smith seems more All-American than many U.S. bachelors.

"Hockey's really my passion," he protests.

"I just happen to be good at football."

Much of the dating hijinks were shot last summer. Earlier this month, production shifted to this picturesque seaside town near Victoria, B.C. for the taping of next week's Women Tell All outing (airing Nov. 14 on Citytv)as well as the After the Rose episode (Nov. 28).

Fans will learn if Smith chooses Bianka or Whitney — or neither — on decision night, Wed. Nov. 21. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brad Smith has a big decision coming up. HANDOUT

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Justin Bieber ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Cry him a river: Justin B. borrows from Justin T.

Justin Bieber is dealing with being dumped by Selena Gomez the only way he knows how — through music. The 18-year-old Canadian pop star treated fans to a stripped-down acoustic version of Justin Timberlake's Cry Me a River — a song inspired by Timberlake's split from Britney Spears — at a tour stop over the weekend, according to People magazine. As for actually addressing the breakup, Bieber still sounds pretty shaken up. "I don't know what's going on in my life," he said in an interview with Open House Party radio before the show. "To even assess that, it doesn't make sense because I have not made any comment."

The babies still love you Biebs

Miranda Kerr

Selena Gomez may not be as big a Justin Bieber fan as she was a month ago, but at least the Canadian pop star gets the infant vote. Victoria's Secret model Miranda Kerr tells Us Weekly that Flynn, her 21-month-old son with husband Orlando Bloom, loves music and dancing — and Bieber's in particular. "The other day, we were in South Africa, I turned on the TV and Justin Bieber's documentary was on," Kerr says. "I said, 'Flynn! Bieber!' and he said, 'Bie-ber.' I said, 'Bieber fever' and he said, 'Bieber fever.' I thought it was the cutest thing I've ever seen."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

The stars get to gabbing on the MTV red carpet

On the red carpet of Sunday's MTV Europe Music Awards in Frankfurt, Germany, David Hasselhoff got perhaps the biggest applause from fans, with host Heidi Klum, Kim Kardashian and Gangnam Style star PSY coming a close second. The random lineup proves what an eclectic show it was. Metro was on the red carpet to talk to a few of the headliners.

ALICIA KEYS

There's talk of an apocalypse. What would you tweet, if you knew it was the end of the world?

Oh gosh, I really don't want to think about that. I really don't. But it's true it is something to think about. We're putting so much abuse on this planet. How is it not supposed to react that way?

LANA DEL REY

What were you listening to before the show?

We were listening to Chris Isaak and Bruce Springsteen. Americana.

PSY, HASSELHOFF AND JEPSEN

"The whole point of Gangnam Style is that you don't have to be that good."
—PSY

"It's good because I ride horses. It's very easy."
—David Hasselhoff on dancing Gangnam Style

"If you'd asked me when I was seven years old, I would have told you with utter confidence, definitely, yes. I'd be a star. But then I grew up."
—Carly Rae Jepsen

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

Hello Winter… Hello Whisky!

WARNING: Please come out from below your rock if you don't already know, Foodconnect.com's Hopscotch Festival is coming to Vancouver next week. Canada's premium whisky, beer, and spirit festival rolls into Van City starting on Monday Nov 12th and continues until Sunday of the same week.

After 16 successful years, 4 location changes, thousands of different products tasted by more than 100,000 people, surely you know about this amazing educational festival, don't you? If not, please read on… this is an event you do not want to miss.

There are three types of events within the festival, although many are already sold out. The Satellite Events include whisky and beer pairing dinners and a charitable whisky brunch hosted by the Junior Culinary Chefs of Canada. The Master Classes are forty-five minute private intimate tastings hosted by world-renowned speakers who have come in to Vancouver just to host these events!

The anchor event is the Grand Tasting Hall where more than 6000 people will come to sip, taste, learn and schmooze about premium Scotch, Whisky, Beer, and all the other Spirits. There will be 100+ exhibitors and over 350+ different products.

Guests enjoy an international selection of hundreds of products from around the world at the Hopscotch Festival's Grand Tasting Hall.

Adam Bloch, Executive Director of the festival was quoted as saying "I used to love history in school. It was one of my favourite subjects, after recess. As such, it gives me great pleasure to state our historical ticket sales…. 2007. 2008. 2009. 2010. 2011. Sold out. Sold out. Sold out. Sold out. Sold Out! Respectively."

This year's festival is already 90% sold out and will sell out by the time the doors open. Now is the time to buy your tickets. For more Information and to purchase tickets, please go to ***www.hopscotchfestival.com***.

Enjoy!

Elmo and his handler Kevin Clash ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Tickle me surprised: Elmo's right hand man caught in sex scandal

Kevin Clash, the man behind Sesame Street star Elmo, has taken a leave of absence from the popular children's show amid allegations that he had a sexual relationship with a 16-year-old boy, according to Radar Online. "We met with Kevin, who denied the accusation. We also conducted a thorough investigation and found the allegation of underage conduct to be unsubstantiated," a spokesman for Sesame Workshop says, according to Radar Online. "Although this was a personal relationship unrelated to the workplace, our investigation did reveal that Kevin exercised poor judgment and violated company policy regarding Internet usage, and he was disciplined." No date has been given for Clash's return to the show. The star of the documentary Being Elmo reportedly told another media outlet recently, "I had a relationship with (the accuser). It was between two consenting adults, and I am deeply saddened that he is trying to make it into something it was not."

LaBeouf libates with the little people

Shia LaBeouf

Shia LaBeouf can't enjoy a drink in peace, apparently. The Transformers star hit up a dingy South London pub recently, surprising the regulars, and the evening wasn't without incident. "No one could believe that a well-known Hollywood star had docked up at a bar in [this neighbourhood]," a visitor to the Hobgoblin in New Cross tells the Sun. "Everyone was getting their photos taken with him." Things took a bad turn, though, when a student stole LaBeouf's baseball cap. "I think he was just joking, but Shia didn't like it," the source says. "He tried to get it back and they ended up tussling. It was handbags, really. But it shows that even Hollywood stars can't avoid grief down this way."

Greene hopes gossip won't get in film's way

Ashley Greene

Ashley Greene knows that the relationship drama between her Twilight co-stars Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson has been getting a lot of attention — especially after Stewart's cheating scandal this summer — but Greene hopes all the hubbub doesn't get in the way of the release of the franchise's final film. "Hopefully it won't taint it and people will still be able to enjoy the movie," she tells Seventeen magazine. "I think a lot of people see us as our characters. I really want them to still be able to do that."

Twitter

@MalinAkerman
On my 3rd hour here at London airport...pretty good spot to have a layover. Lots of shops!

@JohnCleese
In LA working with Python producer John Goldstone and daughter Camilla on acting and writing master classes for the internet.

@MissKellyO
At a photo shoot for a campaign to save African Elephants & the elephant farted on my boyfriends head funniest thing I have ever witnessed!

@CraigyFerg
Just downloaded Angry Birds Star Wars. This is probably my last tweet for a while.

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Kellan Lutz faces off against Kristen Stewart on screen and talks about how he gets those muscles with Metro. HANDOUT

Getting that vampire strength

Interview. Twilight star Kellan Lutz talks about how he keeps the sleek physique and manages major strength in the series

ROMINA McGUINNESS
life@metronews.ca

Kellan Lutz spent four years wearing pasty white make-up and doing push ups to play superstrong vampire Emmett Cullen in The Twilight Saga. Now that the final chapter, Breaking Dawn — Part 2, arrives in theatres, he talks to Metro about his post-vampire career, wrestling with Kristen Stewart and learning to cut up a steak.

Everyone went on and on about Taylor Lautner's body in Twilight. But you were buff all along. How did you manage that?
I have good muscle memory. I'm barrel-chested, so I can do 50 push ups and get some man boobs pretty easily. But Taylor had to take his shirt off. It would have been different if I'd had to take mine off and I was pale white with make up. It wouldn't look so flattering.

The arm wrestle scene between Bella and Emmett in Breaking Dawn 2 — did you guys do it for real? Kristen vs. Kellan?
I sent Emmett to some acting classes to prepare him for that scene so that he didn't lose and get his ego hurt too much. I'd been looking forward to shooting that scene for years and Kristen was just so excited to play a vampire finally. She's a strong woman. She put up a good fight. Of course, I let her win.

Could Kristen beat you in real life?
Never … Plus she cheated. But I really think she could beat Rob in an arm wrestle.

So, she's stronger than Robert Pattinson?
I think so … She'd come out a winner. She'd probably tickle him or something.

Would he make more?

"I mean, am I sitting on the edge of my bed praying about it? No. I love my character. If I had a spin-off where Emmett goes in the woods and five years later he has his own zoo and he's wrestling a bear and a lion in the backyard and he has his five Emmett buddies from his football days and hunting days and we made a comedy out of it, that would be great."

Kellan Lutz,
On making more Twilight movies.

Who would you rather date? Kristen Stewart or Bella Swan?
I don't really know Bella Swan too much. I know Kristen. For me, the wise choice would be who I know the most and connect the most with and Kristen — she was just so much fun to work with.

If you had the vampire strength of Emmett in real life—
If? What are you talking about?

What would you dream of being able to do?
Wrestle lions like Samson (in the Bible.) I love to play with my dog — but how fun would that be, to wrestle a lion by its mane and pull it down. Or a grizzly bear. For me — having all-powerful strength — being able to pull trees out of the ground and carry them like a pool noodle. Or feel like Atlas (a Titan known for his strength in Greek mythology).

What do you do to stay fit?
I play volleyball every Saturday and workout whenever I can. A big part of what I've been doing is just eating better. I don't eat as much candy as I used to.

I read you can eat 10 Taco Bell tacos in one sitting.
I have a large stomach. Growing up within a family of six boys, you learn to just chow down. You just want to get it in before it's gone. I'm learning to enjoy my meals and cut up a steak rather than just ripping it apart with my mouth.

What's next for you?
I'm focusing on action movies. I love fighting and shooting guns.

Why?
I have no tattoos — I wear my scars as my tattoos. I've never broken a bone but I love taking risks. I'd like to do something extreme like Tom Cruise in Mission Impossible. Wear a squirrel suit and jump out of a helicopter, fly over an erupting volcano and drive fast cars.

Would you do the space jump?
Yeah. I just love the thrill. Skydiving is amazing — doing flips in the air. Snowboarding or scuba diving —it's one of the scariest things I've ever done — it's life or death down there.

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Alzheimer's disease not just for elderly

Mental health. The disease, which leads to memory loss and confusion, can strike earlier than you thought

CELIA MILNE
life@metronews.ca

There are lots of support groups now for those touched by Alzheimer's disease. ISTOCK PHOTO

Stefania Silvestri was only 14 when her father, John, was diagnosed with dementia. She remembers going to rent a video with him, and the pain on his face when the cashier asked him for his phone number and he didn't know it. He was 48. He died a few years later.

"All of the plans, however small and trivial, were stunted and stopped," writes Silvestri in her book Beside the Mountain: Finding Strength and Courage Through my Father's Early Onset Alzheimer's Disease.

Silvestri is now 28 and an English teacher in Los Angeles. In Canada, it has been estimated there are 50,000 people under 50 living with dementia, according to the Alzheimer Society of Canada. Some of these people have the very rare familial Alzheimer's disease (FAD), which is inherited from a parent. Others have an early onset of the more common form, which tends to affect people in old age, called sporadic Alzheimer's disease.

When Alzheimer's disease attacks young people like it did Silvestri's father, it has the same characteristics — memory loss, confusion, difficulty thinking — as sporadic Alzheimer's, and it is all the more tragic because it strikes mid-career and while loved ones are young.

Silvestri battled with depression and self-mutilation, but also learned to enjoy moments of togetherness as her family took regular trips back to their homeland — Italy.

"I learned about the strength of the family and the love you can share, living as best you can," she tells Metro.

While there is still no cure for Alzheimer's, support systems are growing stronger, she says.

"My mom didn't have a community. Now there are Facebook groups and websites."

Quoted

"I learned about the strength of the family and the love you can share, living as best as you can."

Stefania Silvestri
Author of Beside the Mountain: Finding Strength and Courage Through my Father's Early Onset Alzheimer's Disease

Best Health

How to avoid getting the flu

BEST HEALTH MINUTE
Bonnie Munday
Editor-in-chief
Best Health Magazine

Don't fear the flu shot. ISTOCK PHOTOS

In the November issue of Best Health magazine, on newsstands now, our regular columnist Dr. Susan Biali shares six habits she has for avoiding colds and flu. As she says, after more than 10 years in the medical practice and being exposed to everything from swine flu to tuberculosis, she has to rely on multiple strategies to minimize the probability of getting sick. Here are three of her top six tips.

1. Take a probiotic every day.
In addition to improving digestion and intestinal health, they boost your immunity and can protect you from colds and flu. Ask your pharmacist or family doctor for a recommendation if you aren't sure which one is right for you, and follow the recommended dosage on the label, Biali says.

2. Get a flu shot.
There's so much debate over the safety of the flu shot, but Biali really thinks it's a wise choice for anyone who has contact with a lot of people.

"The year I got the flu was the first year since med school that I had delayed getting my flu shot. I've never missed one since."

3. Limit sugar.
Eating sugary or refined-flour-based foods produces bursts of high blood sugar in your body, and that impairs your immune system. Eat fibre-rich whole foods and limit high-sugar snacks and drinks to keep your defences strong.

For the other three tips, pick up the November issue of Best Health magazine.

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Have dinner on the table in 20 minutes with tilapia

ROSE REISMAN
for more, visit
rosereisman.com

This Tilapia with Cashew Crust recipe is a real winner for fish lovers.

The mild taste of tilapia goes well with nuts, and this lemon-nut combination is outstanding.

If you want to substitute another fish, try sole. Serve this over a bed of fresh grilled vegetables.

The best part is that prep time is only five minutes and cooking time is only 15 minutes.

1. Preheat the oven to 425 F. Line a baking sheet with foil and spray with cooking oil.

2. Place the cashews, cheese, oil, juice and garlic in the bowl of a food processor and process just until coarsely ground. Do not purée. Alternatively, finely chop by hand.

3. Place the fish on the prepared baking sheet and divide the nut mixture over top, pressing it onto the fillets to help it adhere. Bake for 10 minutes per inch of thickness, or until the fish flakes when pierced with a fork. Garnish with the dill and lemon wedges. **ROSE REISMAN'S COMPLETE LIGHT KITCHEN (WHITECAP BOOKS) BY ROSE REISMAN**

Ingredients

- 1/3 cup finely chopped toasted cashews
- 4 tbsp grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tbsp freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 1/2 tsp crushed fresh garlic
- Four 4-oz tilapia fillets
- 3 tbsp chopped fresh dill or basil
- lemon wedges

This recipe serves four. BRIAN MACDONALD, FROM ROSE REISMAN'S COMPLETE LIGHT KITCHEN (WHITECAP BOOKS)

Health solutions

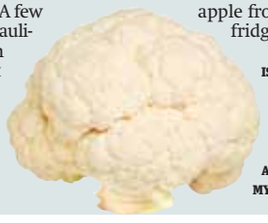
Save on produce

NUTRI-BITES
Theresa Albert
DHN, RNCP
myfriendinfood.com

Man, vegetables and fruit can get expensive this time of year! And when you consider that most of us are only enjoying three or four of the eight to 10 we are supposed to, the grocery bill goes through the roof. Here are a few tips to help you pinch a few pennies:

- Check the reduced bin first. Often, food is moved here simply to make room for a new shipment and you would have paid full price 20 seconds ago. (You will know what is beyond its due date, don't worry.)
- Buy in bulk and cook or freeze. A few heads of cauliflower can be bought on the cheap and be cooked in the slow cooker to turn it into a freezable side dish with a little drizzle of butter. Freeze in single serving sizes and never go without.
- Shop in Asian markets and experiment! You may not be familiar with the vegetable but, rest assured, a quick stir fry and you will be.
- Look for sales on frozen vegetables. These are often picked at their peak and frozen to preserve nutrients. Not as great as a salad, maybe, but tossed into pastas and soups, they are great!
- You can't beat frozen berries for pies, smoothies and to stir into yogurt.

Don't skimp on the health benefits of fruits and vegetables just to save a few bucks. It won't be worth it in the end. If all else fails, "borrow" someone else's apple from the work fridge. (Kidding!)



THERESA ALBERT IS AN AUTHOR AND ON CALL, PRIVATE NUTRITIONIST IN TORONTO. SHE IS @THERESAALBERT ON TWITTER AND FOUND DAILY AT MYFRIENDINFOOD.COM

Spinach & Artichoke Dip with Catfish. A tempting autumn appetizer

1. Heat oven to 180 C (350 F).

2. In a saucepan over medium heat, melt butter and add catfish cubes. Cook, stirring, for about 5 minutes or until fish flakes easily when tested with a fork. Remove from heat and let cool for about 5 minutes.

3. Squeeze excess moisture out of spinach and artichokes. In a large bowl, combine with two-thirds of the Parmesan and all remaining ingredients. Transfer to a glass baking dish and sprinkle with remaining cheese.

4. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes or until hot in the middle and golden brown. Serve warm with your favourite crackers, bread or veggies. **THE CANADIAN PRESS/U.S. FARM-RAISED CATFISH**

Ingredients

- 15 ml (1 tbsp) butter
- 3 catfish fillets (each 180 to 250 g/6 to 8 oz), cubed
- 500 g (1 lb) frozen chopped spinach, thawed and drained
- 1 can (398 ml/14 oz) artichokes, drained
- 175 ml (3/4 cup) grated Parmesan cheese, divided
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) diced green onions
- 250 ml (1 cup) mayonnaise
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 5 ml (1 tsp) hot sauce, or to taste
- Salt and pepper, to taste

There's a new green side dish in town with a peppery hit

Of all the many green vegetables available to us, we tend to be profoundly lacking inspiration when it comes to selecting one for those big family dinners.

Generally, it's either green beans or Brussels sprouts. And while both are fine vegetables, wouldn't it be nice if just once the token nod to something green on the table was something a little different?

That's the inspiration behind this fast and easy green dish that has lots of flavour and doesn't rely on the usual suspects. The solution is a heaping tray of roasted, peppery shrimp and edamame, creating an attractive and filling side dish that could even double as a main course.

Because this recipe cooks so quickly — and at a much higher temperature than most big dinner dishes are likely to — leave it for last.

And yes, the recipe is correct — 2 tablespoons of black pepper. That's the point. And it is delicious.

This recipe serves eight. MATTHEW MEAD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

- 1-lb bag frozen shelled edamame
- 2 lbs raw peeled shrimp (thawed, if frozen)
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 2 tbsp ground black pepper
- 1 tbsp kosher salt
- 1 tsp smoked paprika

1. Heat oven to 450 F. Line a rimmed baking sheet with foil.

2. Place the edamame in a medium microwave-safe bowl and microwave for 1 to 2 minutes, or just long enough to slightly thaw. Pour off any liquid that has accumulated in the bowl, then transfer the edamame to the prepared baking sheet.

3. Add the shrimp to the baking sheet, then drizzle the oil over them and the edamame. Sprinkle with the pepper, salt and paprika. Use your hands to mix everything together, making certain the shrimp and edamame are well coated with the oil and seasonings. Arrange the ingredients in an even layer on the baking sheet.

4. Roast for 5 minutes, then use a spatula to turn the shrimp. Roast for another 2 to 3 minutes, or until the shrimp are just pink and firm. Serve immediately. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

How a cheesy soundtrack = amazing sex

Setting the mood. Music psychologist reveals why great love songs get us all hot and bothered

ROMINA MCGUINNESS
metronews.ca

It appears that when it comes to wooing and romance, music can be used as a form of brainwashing. The songs you choose are just a subtle way to suggest and initiate sex.

Music psychologist Dr. Daniel Müllensiefen, from Goldsmiths, University of London, discovered that music was a key element of the seduction game and consequently, how successful you are in the bedroom. The playlist you listen to in the moments leading to and during sex is crucial.

Time of your life

Although both sexes favoured songs that were happy and tender, men tend to make more of an effort to adjust to the taste of their date in order to ensure success in the bedroom.

This could explain why the soundtrack from the iconic '80s romantic movie, Dirty Dancing, was voted as best for sex. This is because it's not just the music that's important, but what it is that we associate with the songs.

Dr. Müllensiefen observed: "Music activates emotional pleasure centres in the brain—the same areas that are activated when we have sex or take drugs.

The Vocals

But it's not just what we associate the song with that's important in the bedroom — individual vocals are too. "People have a sort of emotional intelligence with music," explains Dr. Müllensiefen.

"When it comes to getting in the mood for sex, people tend to go for relaxed songs with little use of vocal vibrato and with a greater dynamic range, a high chest voice, a raspiness in the voice, such as Marvin Gaye's Sexual Healing, (the number one track to get in the mood for sex) and Barry White's Anything (third best)."

The Dirty Dancing soundtrack worked for them. LIONSGATE

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Why we fail financially

Alison's money rule.
New survey shows how we really feel about our spending and saving

YOUR MONEY
Alison Griffiths
money@metronews.ca

Do you have a cheatin' heart? Do you feel guilty or anxious? Are you hoping for a windfall to save you? Chances are, you'll answer yes to one or more of these questions when they relate to money.

Credit Education Week Canada (cewc.ca) began on Monday. This year, the founders of CEWC, Credit Canada Debt Solutions and Capital One Canada, commissioned a survey to find out how we really feel about money and our spending and saving resolutions.

Interestingly, the survey uncovered a whole lotta angst going on in our financial lives. Sixty three per cent of Canadians worry so much about money they lose sleep and for half of us, it has caused conflict with family or friends.

Nearly 30 per cent are praying for a lottery win or an inheritance to secure their futures.

In light of these statistics, it comes as no surprise that 81 per cent of us have cheated on resolutions made about money.

The source of our financial woes lies mostly in a single area — overspending.

Pretty much everyone does it, with groceries being the biggest culprit (76 per cent), followed by the need to treat or reward ourselves (60 per cent) and eating out (54 per cent).

While many Canadians (37 and 28 per cent) believe that lack of income and discipline are at the root of their financial troubles, I think these are symptoms, not causes.

The real problem is a lack of another kind — help.

There is a crying need for assistance and very few are getting it. Only eight per cent of Canadians use a financial planner, for example. But there are many ways to get support in achieving financial goals. Old-fashioned hand holding is one.

Find someone you trust to be a mentor and to keep you on track. I know one woman who enlisted her neighbours with the common goal of making a budget and sticking to it. They met monthly to bare their financial souls — and it worked.

There are also charitable counselling services such as Credit Canada (creditcanada.com) and employers are increasingly including financial counseling to HR programs.

If you think you need help, start looking for it. Don't hide your financial problems in a closet.

A financial planner can be a broke girl's best friend. ISTOCK IMAGES

Contact Alison at griffiths.alison@gmail.com or alisongriffiths.ca

The Joneses' don't have two nickels to rub together, so why keep up?

FUN AND FRUGAL
Lesley Scorgie
money@metronews.ca

November is financial literacy month for many provinces in Canada. To celebrate, last week I spoke at an event alongside David Chilton, the new Dragon from Dragon's Den and author of Wealthy Barber, the first personal finance book I ever read at age 13.

Chilton is considered the pioneer of personal finance in Canada, so it was an honour to present with him on the theme of Keeping Up With The Joneses'.

Unfortunately, Canadian appetite for spending has grown substantially over the past few decades as our incomes have grown and access to credit has increased.

We've watched our broke neighbours bring home fancier cars, upgrade their houses and put junior in expensive competitive sports.

As a result of adult peer pressure, we've over-extended ourselves to look richer in hopes of greater happiness, which never materializes because true happiness isn't found in a new television.

What price will Canadians pay to keep up with their spending? ISTOCK IMAGES

Meanwhile, the truly wealthy are not spending this kind of dough. They're living frugally, keeping meticulous budgets and spending on things that grow in value, not shrink.

These folks report less stress, fewer divorces and greater personal satisfaction. They are financially literate.

Due to extreme overspending, Canadians borrow approximately $0.70 of every $1 spent and the most popular borrowing methods are credit cards and lines of credit.

Canadians continue to carry balances on our credit cards at an average rate of 19.5 per cent and the average Canadian household owes $40,000 in some type of consumer debt.

Even more frightening is the fact that one in 10 families report that they would not be able to handle a $500 unexpected expense.

What price will Canadians pay to keep up with their spending?

The bottom line on overspending and debt is that it's restrictive and causes stress.

If you care about your future, channel your energy and dollars away from image-boosting spending and focus on keeping what you've worked so hard to earn.

If you're caught in an overspending trap, stop. Remove spending temptation. Avoid bad debt and manage good debt by:

1. Negotiating interest rates; and
2. Paying a little extra each month through frugal living.

Chilton offered good advice last week: Stop complaining about what you don't have.

Consider yourself lucky to live in Canada, where we are safe, have access to education, health care, jobs and other helpful resources.

Follow Lesley on Twitter @LesleyScorgie

MAKE A MONEY RESOLUTION

CREDIT EDUCATION WEEK CANADA AIMS TO RAISE AWARENESS

In 2007, Credit Canada and Capital One Canada teamed up to create the first Credit Education Week Canada (CEWC), with the objective to raise public awareness and educate Canadians about the many issues and challenges they face managing their finances, spending and savings.

Now in its sixth year, CEWC 2012 will be looking at "money resolutions" and the unique financial pressures Canadian consumers face.

Beginning today and running through to Friday, more than 150 events and financial literacy workshops at YMCAs and community centres across the country will occur under the Credit Education Week Canada banner thanks to the support and funding of all sponsors.

On Nov. 13, the founding sponsors of CEWC — Credit Canada Debt Solutions and Capital One Canada — will officially kick off the week with the launch of its Professional Development Day at the Toronto YMCA. The event launch will be hosted by Gary Rabbior, president of CFEE, a non-profit, non-partisan organization since 1981. This is a unique opportunity for financial industry leaders to bring consumer awareness to myriad of financial issues impacting Canadians, as well as show their support and commitment to the financial literacy initiatives.

Bruce Sellery, the founder of Moolala, a personal finance training company with a mission to inspire people to get a handle on their money so they can live the life they want, will deliver the event's keynote address.

The climax of every CEWC is the dinner gala, which will be held Thursday at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto. The gala will be hosted by CTV's consumer affairs expert Pat Foran, while David Chilton, star of CBC's Dragons' Den and bestselling author of The Wealthy Barber Series, will deliver the gala keynote address.

For more information about CEWC 2012, go to cewc.ca.

STORIES FROM ACROSS CANADA

Credit Canada and Capital One Canada sponsored a contest asking people to share their inspiring or compelling stories about how they conquered their credit issues and how it changed their life. Contributors were asked to share their stories in 300 words or less. Julie-Laurence Lafortune of Laval, Que., submitted the winning entry worth $4,000, Trina Brooks from London, Ont., took home $3,000 for the second-place story, while David Roberts from Vancouver cashed in the third-place entry, which was worth $1,000.

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KICKING HER TO THE CURB

JULIE-LAURENCE LAFORTUNE CHOOSES TO END A RELATIONSHIP WITH HER CREDIT CARD

GRAND PRIZE WINNER ($4,000)

It was the summer of 2004; she had just graduated from university and was working an entry-level position in the field of advertising. We met at the bank. The teller introduced us and it was love at first sight.

She wanted so many things and I could provide those to her. The designer shoes that she so lusted for were finally hers in the blink of an eye when she brought me along with her. While her friends were saving up for down payments on condominiums or putting money towards their retirement, she was with me in the swankiest stores in town. Her friends and family warned her to spend less time with me but nothing could keep us apart. I remember those crazy nights out when I would get swiped a dozen times.

Notices started flooding in requesting she pay for me. She stopped opening them. After all, our relationship was all about fun and nobody was going to put a damper on that. It all came to a halt one year later. She had a nightmare; she was drowning in a sea of notices, unable to come up to the surface to breathe. As she awoke in fright, I heard her whisper: I need to change my ways or I will be living in my purse and drinking juice from my shoes.

She confined me to her freezer; she tried to cut me with her scissors but couldn't bring herself to do it. She sold some of her designer goods and opened a tax-free savings account. She wrote up a debt repayment plan and followed it with unbridled discipline.

She finally took me out one day but it just wasn't the same. She wanted a professional relationship. I wasn't her everything anymore, just her credit card.

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SPORTS 4

Let the trash talk begin

CFL. 'If we both play our best game, we're a better team,' Lions' Reid says in response to jab from Calgary's Lewis

CAM TUCKER
cam.tucker@metronews.ca

There was plenty of football fodder Monday as the B.C. Lions began the workweek at their Surrey practice facility.

One of the more stirring topics included some trash talk from Calgary Stampeders receiver Nik Lewis directed at the defending Grey Cup champions.

Fresh off the printers and placed neatly in the stall of every Lions player were two sheets of paper with a story from the Calgary Herald quoting Lewis as saying — just after the Stamps defeated the Saskatchewan Roughriders in Sunday's West semifinal — that the Lions "were all in prayer meetin' this morning, hoping Sask (Saskatchewan) won."

"They were probably sittin' around singing 'Kumbaya' when Sask scored there at the end of the game, thinking it was over.

"They don't want to see us. Just like Sask didn't want to see us."

The Stamps came back to defeat the Roughriders 36-30 after quarterback Drew Tate hit Romby Bryant for a 68-yard touchdown pass with 20 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter.

The Stamps will play the Lions in the West Division final on Sunday at BC Place.

Earning the bye week with a 13-5 record, the Lions watched the semifinal together as fans. They reacted as fans would to the Roughriders taking the lead on a touchdown with 52 seconds remaining, and again when the Stamps conjured their winning drive just 32 seconds later.

That dissipated Monday, as players were asked about Lewis's comments.

"I don't know who he knows here to think that, but you're not going to get that feeling out of this locker-room," said Lions centre Angus Reid.

"Football is handled between the lines," added halfback Korey Banks.

Defensive end Keron Williams, the CFL sacks leader this year with 12, was teammates with Lewis in Calgary in 2006 and 2007.

"He's a great athlete and he's a character of the locker-room," Williams said of Lewis.

"When you add those together, it makes for any comments that will propel a trigger or reaction. But we're not looking into that at all."

There's no denying Lewis is the catalyst of the Stamps receiving core, if not the entire offence.

He possesses terrific skill, racking up at least 1,000 yards receiving in each of his nine CFL seasons, to match an outstanding athletic pedigree.

Standing five-foot-10 and weighing in at a solid 240 pounds, Lewis has proven he can run right through opposing tacklers, or jump right over them.

He also had 17 catches for 240 yards and one touchdown in three games against B.C. this season. The Lions, however, won the regular-season series 2-1.

Their only blemish against the Stamps came in a 41-21 loss in Week 18, when B.C. surrendered 24 first-quarter points.

"They're good but I don't think anyone here is going to sit here and say they're more talented than we are," said Reid.

"We just have to concentrate on our game, focus on what we do and I think when it comes right down to it, if we both play our best game, we're a better team."

Stampeders receiver Nik Lewis is tackled by Saskatchewan's Macho Harris during Sunday's West Division semifinal in Calgary. LARRY MACDOUGAL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

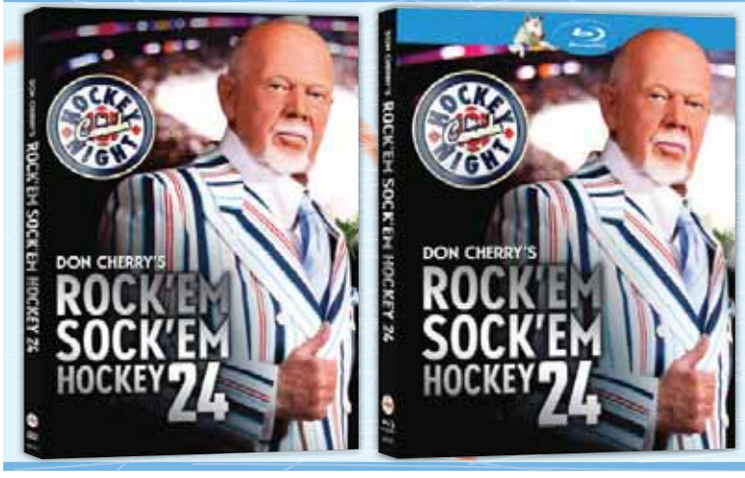
"I know his personality very well, He's a very outlandish and spontaneous person, so to speak."

Lions defensive-end tackle Keron Williams on former teammate Nik Lewis

Bruce declares himself fit

Lions receiver Arland Bruce III says he's fit and ready to suit up Sunday as the Lions host the Stampeders for the right to play in the Grey Cup.

- "I've been ready for about two weeks now," said Bruce at the Lions' Surrey practice facility Monday. "So I'm looking forward to this opportunity to get back on the field with my troops and getting back to Toronto (for the Grey Cup.)"
- Bruce suffered a concussion in September against Saskatchewan that kept him sidelined for five games. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Hockey Hall of Fame inductees, from left, Mats Sundin, Joe Sakic, Adam Oates and Pavel Bure pose in Toronto on Monday. RICK MADONIK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Lockout on minds of Hall of Fame inductees

Hockey. 'It hurts the game,' says Burnaby native Sakic as new class enshrined in Toronto

There is something missing from Joe Sakic's new plaque at the Hockey Hall of Fame and it's not because the printer made a mistake.

Among the list of his many achievements is no mention of his 21st NHL season, the one that was never played because of the 2004-05 lockout. With the sport back in another labour dispute, Sakic reflected on the year that never was on the day he took his place among hockey's greats.

"I lost a year of hockey," Sakic said Monday, before the induction ceremony. "It would have been 21 years instead of 20. That's what you lose."

Fellow inductees Mats Sundin and Adam Oates were also in the NHL when the last lockout hit, while Pavel Bure, the fourth member of the class, was already retired.

Sundin never managed to win a Stanley Cup and can't help but wonder what could have been had the 2004-05 season been played. His Maple Leafs were on a run of six consecutive playoff appearances before that work stoppage.

"It was awful," Sundin said. "I think it's devastating."

The current lockout made Hall of Fame ceremonies a more subdued affair than usual. The four inductees were to have been honoured at Air Canada Centre before a Leafs-Devils game on Friday night — a missed opportunity in particular for Sundin, the longtime Toronto captain, and Oates, who grew up in the city.

Sundin is back living in his native Sweden now, but the impact of another work stoppage hasn't gone unnoticed.

"I think it's huge," he said. "It's the biggest representative of the game of hockey in the world. When the NHL is not going, people lose focus on hockey."

Added Sakic: "It hurts the players, it hurts the owners, it hurts the fans and it hurts the game."

The two men at the centre of collective bargaining negotiations, commissioner Gary Bettman and NHLPA executive director Donald Fehr, were both expected to attend Monday night's ceremony. They were anxious to try to keep a low profile.

All four members of this year's Hall of Fame class were affected by a labour disruption during their careers — Bure was playing for the Vancouver Canucks during the lockout-shortened 1994-95 season — and it's reasonable to expect that trend will continue for some time after four work stoppages in the last 20 years.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

By the numbers

2

Of the four former NHLers inducted on Monday, Joe Sakic was the only one to win a Stanley Cup. Sakic won two with the Colorado Avalanche (1995-96, 2000-01).

Quoted

"I think it's the biggest achievement you can get in hockey ... for me it's a huge honour. It feels great."

Hockey Hall of Fame inductee Pavel Bure

Statistics

2012 HALL OF FAME CLASS

	GP	G	A	PTS
Pavel Bure	702	437	342	779
Playoffs	64	35	35	70
Joe Sakic	1378	625	1016	1641
Playoffs	172	84	104	188
Mats Sundin	1346	564	785	1349
Playoffs	91	38	44	82
Adam Oates	1337	341	1079	1420
Playoffs	163	42	114	156

Torstar News Service

Heat commentator apologizes for remarks

Abbotsford Heat play-by-play man Ryan Pinder has apologized for blasting some Vancouver media outlets following a two-game weekend series between the Heat and Oklahoma City Barons.

During a 15-minute Sunday night segment with CKNW AM 980 SportsTalk Weekend host Dave Sheldon, Pinder publicly took issue with an unidentified number of Vancouver media outlets for their more in-depth coverage of Barons players compared to the Heat, who hosted Oklahoma City at the Abbotsford Entertainment and Sports Centre.

"If you're going to go out and cover a local AHL team, come with a local angle. Don't come in with your pompoms for some team in Texas," Pinder said on CKNW.

"What I'm saying is the media has become fans," he added later in the conversation. "If the affiliation changes, the coverage is through the roof if it's the Canucks.

"If it goes to Buffalo, I still think it improves. I really think some of the media are putting their interests ahead of their jobs in some senses.

"My point is you've got Sven Baertschi here, you've got T.J. Brodie here and you've got your top-three centres all from the Vancouver area, but no one wants to tell that story because, I don't know, maybe underneath those nice button-up shirts, they're wearing Canucks T-shirts. I'm not sure."

On Monday, Pinder, who is in his second season as the voice of the Heat, was contrite, expressing regret for his remarks and saying that they did not reflect the thoughts of the team.

"What I would say is that we had a great media turnout," Pinder said in a phone interview. "I don't, in hindsight, have any problems with the storylines they chose and I made a bad decision to go on the air Sunday night when I should've been getting some sleep.

"I'm pretty proud of the group of coaches and players that I represent and that might've got the best of me."

Both games against the Barons, the American Hockey League affiliate of the Edmonton Oilers, brought in capacity crowds of 7,046 fans.

Saturday's game was also broadcast nationally on Sportsnet One.

The Heat host the Lake Erie Monsters at the AESC Tuesday and Wednesday.

CAM TUCKER/METRO

Quoted

"It was a mistake on my side to go on the air and say what I said."

Heat play-by-play commentator Ryan Pinder in a phone interview Monday.

Cycling

Armstrong cuts ties with charity

Lance Armstrong has cut formal ties with his cancer-fighting charity to avoid further damage brought by doping charges and being stripped of his seven Tour de France titles.

Armstrong resigned from the board of directors for Livestrong on Nov. 4. He had resigned Oct. 17 as chairman of the charity he founded but had kept a seat on the board.

The U.S. Anti-Doping Agency ordered Armstrong banned from the sport for life and stripped him of his titles.

Livestrong spokesperson Katherine McLane said Monday that Armstrong "remains the inspiration" and is still its largest donor with nearly $7 million US pledged. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

Trout, Harper named top rookies

Mike Trout of the Los Angeles Angels became the youngest AL Rookie of the Year on Monday and Bryce Harper of the Washington Nationals was voted the second-youngest winner of the NL honour.

Trout, who turned 21 on Aug. 7, hit .326 with 30 homers and 83 RBIs. Harper, who turned 20 on Oct. 16, batted .270 with 22 home runs and 59 RBIs. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

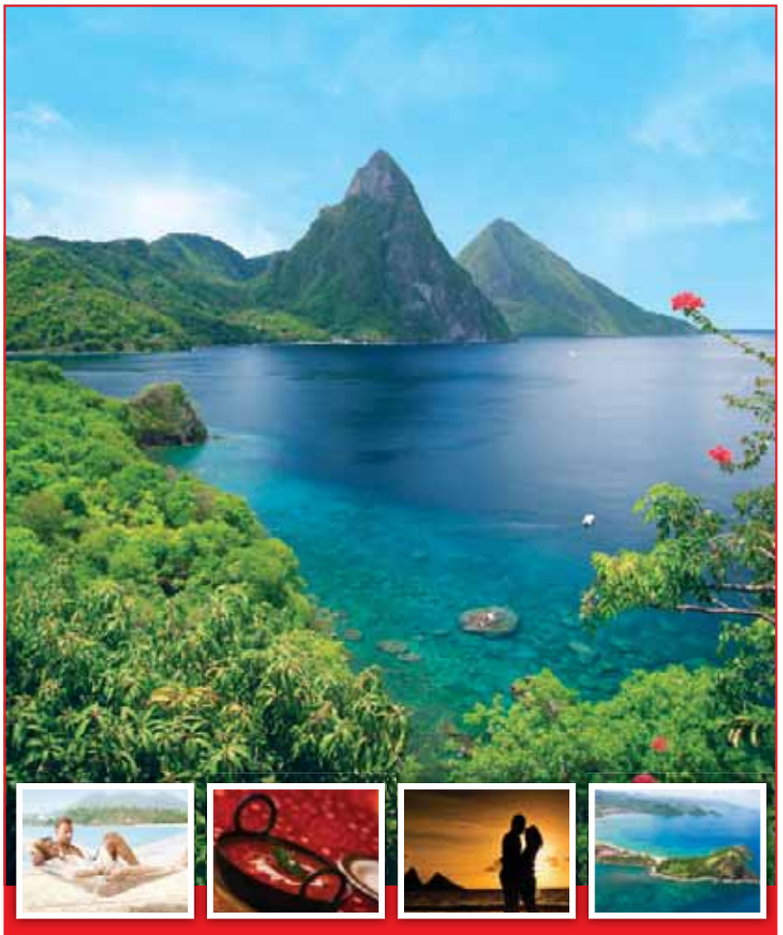
Angels outfielder Mike Trout
GETTY IMAGES FILE

NBA

Lakers pull U-turn to hire D'Antoni

Just when everybody thought the Los Angeles Lakers were getting back together with Phil Jackson, they switched course in the middle of the night and went with Mike D'Antoni.

The Lakers reacted with ample excitement and a little bewilderment Monday to their front office's surprising decision to hire D'Antoni as Mike Brown's replacement over Jackson. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger tucks the football as he is sacked by Kansas City Chiefs outside linebacker Tamba Hali on Monday in Pittsburgh. Roethlisberger left the game with a right shoulder injury. DON WRIGHT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Roethlisberger hurt as Steelers edge Chiefs in OT

The Pittsburgh Steelers escaped with a victory. The health of their franchise quarterback is another matter entirely.

The Steelers edged the woeful Kansas City Chiefs 16-13 in overtime on Monday night but lost Ben Roethlisberger for most of the second half — and perhaps a lot longer — with a right shoulder injury.

Roethlisberger left early in the third quarter after getting slammed to the turf by Kansas City linebackers Tamba Hali and Justin Houston. Coach Mike Tomlin said he was taken to a hospital for evaluation.

The Steelers (6-3) went on to their fourth consecutive victory. Shaun Suisham kicked a 23-yard field goal 51 seconds into the extra period, one play after Lawrence Timmons intercepted Kansas City's Matt Cassel and returned it to the 5.

Jamaal Charles ran for 100 yards and a score for the Chiefs (1-8), who have lost six straight.

The Chiefs rallied in spite of themselves in the final two minutes. Cassel led Kansas City 52 yards — converting a 4th-and-15 in the process — to set up a 46-yard field goal by Ryan Succop as time expired.

Kansas City's only other victory this season came in overtime, a stunning upset in New Orleans in September. Any chance at a repeat faded when Cassel's pass on the second play of the extra period landed in the hands of Timmons, who returned it 23 yards to set up Suisham's second game-winning field goal of the season.

Pittsburgh insisted all week it wouldn't look past the Chiefs toward a showdown against rival Baltimore next Sunday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Monday Night Football

Steelers	Chiefs
16	13

CIS

Local universities claim soccer gold

The UBC Thunderbirds men's soccer team capped off a nearly perfect 2012 season with a Canadian Interuniversity Sport gold medal.

The Thunderbirds defeated the Cape Breton Capers 1-0 in the championship game at Universite Laval Stadium on Sunday, claiming the school's 12th Sam Davidson Memorial Trophy.

The Thunderbirds didn't allow a goal in three games at the national tournament.

Also on Sunday, the Trinity Western University Spartans of Langley won the women's national soccer title in Victoria, defeating the two-time defending champs, the Queen's University Gaels, 4-2 in penalty kicks.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jazz win 3-OT thriller in T.O.

Raptors guard DeMar DeRozan drives to the hoop on Utah Jazz centre Al Jefferson on Monday night in Toronto. Paul Millsap scored 34 points and Jefferson drained just the second three-pointer of his career with 2.2 seconds in regulation to lift the Jazz 140-133 over the Raptors in triple overtime Monday. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
This is an extremely good time for you and if you don't have big plans for the next 24 hours then make some now. On the financial front especially, you can move ahead in leaps and bounds. Be bold.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
If you think you know what is best for a partner or loved one by all means, let them know. But don't push too hard or they may not take your advice. Make it seem as if they thought of it themselves.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
A solar eclipse in the wellbeing area of your chart will bring health matters to the fore, making this the perfect time to start a new fitness regime or, more likely, give up something that doesn't do you any good.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
The thing you need to remember is that causes have consequences. It may seem as if a piece of good fortune has arrived out of the blue but in fact you have somehow earned it. So enjoy it with a good conscience.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Try not to play favourites today, even though one particular person may be higher in your estimation than others. If friends or family members think they are not so important to you, it could cause unnecessary grief.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Social activities and travel plans are under excellent stars, so don't waste the day entirely on work. If you do, you may look back a few weeks from now and wish you had been a touch more adventurous.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Go with the flow today and don't worry too much about where you might end up. Almost certainly it will be somewhere exciting, doing something you enjoy. You may even make some money from it.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Today's solar eclipse in your sign is a herald of good times to come. Those times will be even better if you bring other people into your plans. The more you do with loved ones, the more you do for yourself.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You may be a bit reclusive today, unwilling to get involved in what's going on in the world around you, but that's no bad thing. It's OK to switch out of party mode for a while — in fact, it's a necessity.

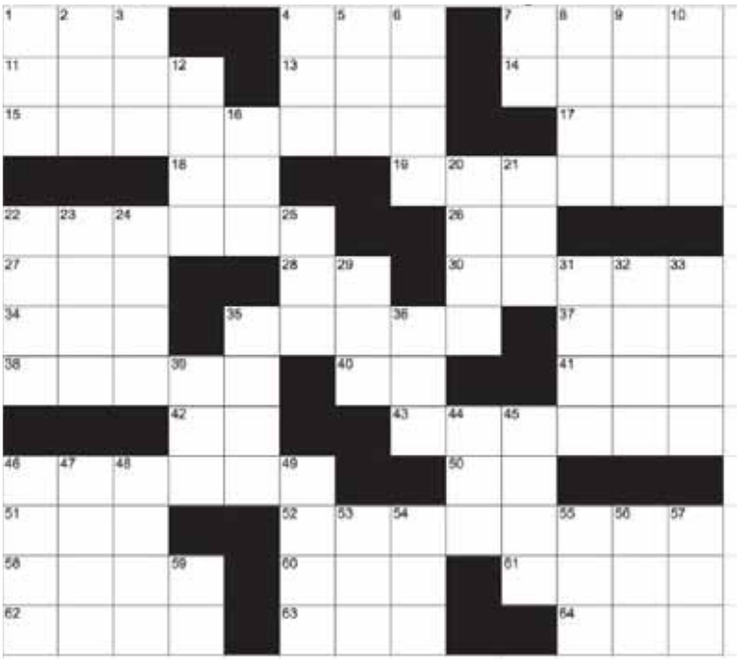
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Cosmic activity in the friendship area of your chart means you will be offered at least one helping hand over the next 14 hours. Wherever you go and whatever you do, people will go out of their way to assist you.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You must let employers and other important people know who you are and what you can do. Put yourself forward today and don't think you are being pushy. It's their loss if they overlook your many talents.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
What is it you want most out of life? Put a name to your dream and visualize what it would be like to have it come true, and there is every chance you will be living it by the end of the year. SALLY BROMPTON

Canadian Crossword

BY BETTY MARTIN



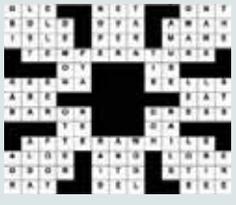
Across

1. House site
4. Pub
7. Proofreaders word
11. Type of code
13. — Life to Live
14. Practice
15. Party favours
17. Participated in a marathon
18. Exclamation of pain
19. Stenographer, of old
22. Grieve
26. Shoe width
27. Bargain basement abbr.
28. Hospital waiting rm.
30. Slip-up
34. Personal info.
35. Annoyed (2 words)
37. Meadow
38. Reeds
40. — the World Turns
41. Type measures
42. Battery size
43. Left to the heir, often
46. Probes
50. My – -Called Life
51. Web ending
52. Salve
58. Laze
60. "Rain —"
61. Baseball stat.
62. Day after Mon.
63. Compass bearing
64. Born

Down

1. Found on CSI: Miami
2. Openings (anat.)
3. — Aviv
4. Casper greeting
5. Columnist Landers
6. Take a breather
7. Jr.'s dad
8. — & Dean: Inn Love
9. Airport info.
10. Camping equip.
12. Salve plant
16. Possess
20. Puppy sound
21. Small pod veggie
22. Teases
23. A great lake
24. Gentle push
25. Golf gadget
29. MacGyver star (init.)
31. Appeal
32. Transmitted
33. Luxury
35. Tremendous victory
36. Utilize
39. Corner —
44. Now grounded fast flyer
45. Heavy volume
46. Give in your notice
47. Language of Pakistan
48. Fashion magazine
49. " — Like it Hot"
53. McShane or Ziering
54. Wind direction (abbr.)
55. Sea eagle
56. Negative vote
57. Toronto Stock Exchange (abbr.)
59. 19th letter of the alphabet

Friday's Crossword



What's online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Friday's Sudoku

7	8	1	3	9	6	5	2	4
9	5	6	2	4	7	1	8	3
3	4	2	8	5	1	9	6	7
4	9	7	1	8	3	2	5	6
6	1	8	5	2	4	3	7	9
2	3	5	7	6	9	4	1	8
1	7	4	6	3	2	8	9	5
5	6	3	9	1	8	7	4	2
8	2	9	4	7	5	6	3	1

Sudoku

7		2	6				1	
			3	8		9		
5					9			
1							9	3
3		8				2		6
4	2							1
			1					9
		1		5	4			
	5				7	1		2

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Wednesday
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